

# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Spring 2017 – Volume XCVI No. 1 £4.25

## SPRING SHOOTS

TARGET SHOTGUN FESTIVAL ■

GB CLEAN SWEEP IN RSA ■

DISCIPLINE ROUNDUP ■

1500M IN WALES ■ CHANNEL ISLANDS TOUR ■ RUNNING DEER ■ RANGE UPDATE



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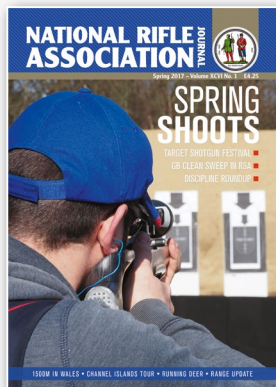


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# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION



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# Spring in our step

**CEO Andrew Mercer looks ahead to the opportunities the 2017 competition season will bring, including electronic targets, range developments, and the Phoenix Meeting**

**E**lectronic targets have been a preoccupation for our staff at Bisley for much of the first few months of 2017. While many shooters get misty-eyed about the service provided by a traditional marker we are finding recruiting and retaining staff for butt duties increasingly difficult. In practice this means that we cannot deliver all the markers required; April to June and mid-September through October are particularly challenging with the competing demands of study time for exams etc. The move to increase the National Minimum Wage will also add significantly to the cost of a traditional marker.

We will shortly have three electronic target systems on long-term trial at Bisley: six Kongsberg targets on Century, 10 Mega Link targets on Cheylesmore, and 11 long range targets on Stickledown. We have learned several valuable lessons and it is apparent that buying the equipment is the easy part. Successful installation is more challenging but the greatest difficulty is creating a reliable and efficient service that commands the trust of the shooting community. To have an electronic target fail is far more than a minor inconvenience to a club that has travelled a great distance for a special day on the ranges.

The accuracy of the systems is impressive; recent trials on Stickledown recorded variances of around 3mm at 1,000 yards. We are working on electronic lifting devices that can raise the target from the range office or firing point; once the fall of shot has been captured then it should be a relatively short putt to feeding scores live into competition software. All exciting developments but these will need to be carefully programmed as they demand significant capital investment (averaging £5,000-£7,000 per target).

The Home Office's consultation on fees for Approved Clubs yielded a good response from NRA members and clubs and I met the Head of Unit recently to discuss progress. Our central argument that the fees have been incorrectly calculated has been noted and I have been invited to meet the Minister in April to press our case.

At Bisley our staff are working hard with preparations for the main shooting season; while there is a surprising amount of activity on the ranges during the winter months, the arrival of British Summer Time sees a welcome surge of shooting. Our initial plans to develop Winans range have been extended with the logic that if we are to make a muddle then we might as well make a big muddle and sort out the range in one go. The new 25m canopy has been completed and contractors are building bund walls to create a new range suitable for target



shotgun; we expect the ranges to be certified safe for the majority of calibres permitted at Bisley.

NRA activity away from Bisley continues to develop. James Harris and his enthusiastic team have created popular leagues for Shotgun, Mini-rifle and Handgun on regional ranges; and we have been supporting TR/F-Class competitions in Derbyshire and Birmingham.

Finally, 26-28 May will see the busy Phoenix meeting at Bisley. The meeting will feature a large arms fair sited in a new clear span pavilion; support from the trade has been very encouraging and our gamble to extend the number of pitches available has paid off. On the Saturday we will be hosting a 'Meet the Clubs' event that will offer visitors the opportunity to meet 20 or so clubs seeking new members. Entry to both the Arms Fair and Meet the Clubs event is free; what event could possibly offer a better way of spending an enjoyable day at Bisley? ■

# NEWS

## REPORTS

### FEES FOR CLUBS COULD INCREASE TENFOLD

At the time of going to press, the Home Office is analysing the feedback from a public consultation regarding fees for clubs' firearms licences issued by the Home Office. The consultation invited public opinion on increasing fees for Section 5 permits, museum collections and shooting clubs.

If the Home Office's proposals are accepted after analysing the feedback, shooting clubs could see initial cost of approval increase from £84 to £1,050, with renewal costs of £900 every six years.

These figures, according to the Home Office, represent the actual cost of issuing such licences. The shortfall currently is met by the taxpayer. However there is a lack of justification in the Home Office's

proposal as to why a simple administrative task costs the Home Office almost £600,000 annually.

NRA chief executive Andrew Mercer said: "The proposed increases are simply unaffordable for the vast majority of our clubs; they would lose the rifles and the exemption of the need for a personal Firearm Certificate that allow them to train probationers in safe shooting and would deny the opportunity for young shooters and those on low incomes to enjoy our sport.

"Many of our clubs have a rich heritage reaching back over 100 years; there would be uproar if they were forced to close their doors because of punitive increases in fees."

### GUERNSEY'S SHOOTING HERITAGE REVEALED

*History of Guernsey Full-Bore Rifle Shooting*, by Bruce Parker and Mike Martel, is now available.

Published in October 2016, it is a 72-page must-have reference book to Guernsey's shooting heritage.

With a compelling foreword by Guernsey Rifle Club President Peter Sirett, the book illustrates the rich and varied history of shooting on this little Island in the English Channel, which often punches way above its weight competitively.

The book tells the story of shooting from a passionate perspective, recounting the history of a shooting nation that can claim two Queen's Prize winners and a famous Kolapore victory, when Guernsey shone above the rest and claimed the coveted prize in 1898.

*History of Guernsey Full-Bore Rifle Shooting* is available in hardback for £16 and paperback for £9. Contact the authors to order your copy: [www.bruce-parker.co.uk](http://www.bruce-parker.co.uk), [brwparker@gmail.com](mailto:brwparker@gmail.com).

### HADDON'S DOUBLE POSSIBLE

NRA chairmen past and present congratulated Lt Col Haddon Donald of New Zealand on his 100th birthday on 20 March.

Joining the Queen, prime minister and governor general of New Zealand in celebration, every NRA chairman since 1990 – John de Havilland, John Jackman, Bill Richards, Robin Pizer and John Webster – cosigned a letter to the centenarian NRA vice chairman.

"The achievements of the New Zealand teams that you captained at Bisley are remembered with great fondness and admiration, most notably the 1960 team that won both the Kolapore and the

Mackinnon in a double rarely achieved by a visiting team," they said. "This was made all the more special as it was witnessed first hand by our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, on her visit to the Imperial Meeting that same year.

"Your long service as a Vice-President of our Association continues to serve as a reminder of the strong relationship between our two nations, and that a common interest in the wonderful sport of rifle shooting can bridge even the greatest distances."

Lt Col Haddon is pictured here during the celebrations for his 100th birthday.



# REPEATING PISTOLS RETURN FOR 2017

The MLAGB has approved a project designed to introduce a wider range of club-level shooters of muzzleloading pistols and revolvers to Open competition.

The project has been organised by Surrey Branch MLAGB, which will run four Open meetings this year. This follows the success of the Open held at last year's Imperial Meeting, which attracted more shooters than the muzzleloading matches offered by the NRA.

These events have been designed to attract more shooters by presenting more interesting courses of fire than typical Precision courses, and by making use of a tiered system of firearms classification which is less exclusionary to those shooters

using cheaper MLPs and MLRs. Open Meetings at Bisley planned for this year will be held on the following dates:

- 22-23 April, South London Rifle Club, including Bisley Clubs Revolver Team Matches (Service Revolver and Free Revolver), [slrc@jimhallam.eu](mailto:slrc@jimhallam.eu)

- 6-7 May, MLAGB, inaugural Repeating Pistol Open Championship Meeting, [mlagb@jimhallam.eu](mailto:mlagb@jimhallam.eu)

- 10 September, Surrey Branch MLAGB, Open Meeting, [surreybranch@jimhallam.eu](mailto:surreybranch@jimhallam.eu)

Entry forms, basic R&Rs and information sheets are available for download from the MLAGB Surrey Branch website: [www.mlagb-surrey.org.uk](http://www.mlagb-surrey.org.uk).

## MEET THE CLUBS

Ever wondered if you should become a member of one of the many clubs which are shooting at Bisley?

A new initiative by the NRA Membership Committee will be organising an event to introduce NRA members to these clubs. This will take place in the newly refurbished Pavilion on Saturday, 27 May 2017 from 9am to 5pm. It's designed to give NRA members the opportunity to learn more about each of these clubs – some with clubhouses on camp and affiliated clubs, which organise regular competitions on the ranges.

Visitors will be able to find the best club for their shooting objectives. Whether you are looking to improve your shooting and get some additional guidance, take part in team competitions or just want to discover the social side of shooting, you will be able to talk to various clubs on the day and ask all the questions you may have.

The event will be held in the training room and runs on the Saturday of the Phoenix meeting with the trade show just next door. Entry is free to all and clubs can exhibit for free on a first come first served basis.

## THE NRA 100

Layne Chisholm took top TR honours in the NRA 100 for the second year running. Layne won the Swanston Trophy, edging out Gaz Corfield in second and Andy Wilde in third, in the event held 23 October 2016.

Service Rifle shooters were also well-represented, and Chris Green of Brunel University TSC bested the competition to take

home a fine pewter model of an SMLE. Sole junior entrant Harrison Daw came second, outshooting his dad Andy Daw who came third (and who better start getting used to it!).

The 2017 competition will be held at the end of October this year (date TBC). For information or to submit entries, contact Phil Northam on [p.northam@virgin.net](mailto:p.northam@virgin.net).

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### REMEMBERING SIMON FRASER

It is with sadness that we report the news that Simon Fraser OBE passed away shortly after retiring from CCRS. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

A full obituary and celebration of Simon's life will follow in the Summer edition of the *Journal*.

### SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP DATES 2017

Suffolk County Rifle Association's Championship dates this year are outlined below.

22 April Suffolk County Rifle Association Closed/Ajar at Thetford, Norfolk IP24 3ST. For regulations and entries contact: [neilgkeighley@gmail.com](mailto:neilgkeighley@gmail.com).

10 June Suffolk County Rifle Association Long Range Match (900 and 1,000 yards, a new venture for Suffolk) at Barton Road Rifle Range, Cambridge CB23 7AT. For regulations and entries contact: [henry.day01@me.com](mailto:henry.day01@me.com).

24 June Suffolk County Rifle Association Open at Thetford, Norfolk IP24 3ST. For regulations and entries contact: [neilgkeighley@gmail.com](mailto:neilgkeighley@gmail.com).

### ERRATA CORRIGE

Big game rifle shooters and readers please note that the next annual big game rifle Ashes Match will be postal, held in the UK, South Africa and Australia with scores exchanged electronically.

In the UK it will be held at BSRC, Bisley, on 9 September 2017. The next 'shoulder-to-shoulder' match will be in South Africa in 2018, with the exact date yet to be confirmed.

Any enquiries may be made to Derek Stimpson, [derek.stimpson@btinternet.com](mailto:derek.stimpson@btinternet.com), or Tim Cooper, [tim.cooper@oldbeech.net](mailto:tim.cooper@oldbeech.net).

## IT'S SHOWTIME

Do you have your ticket to this year's Northern Shooting Show on 6-7 May? If not there's still time to grab an early bird ticket and save yourself a few quid on entry.

After a hugely successful first year, the show, held at the Great Yorkshire Showground near Harrogate, is growing by roughly a third. Return visitors will notice the addition of a new 4,600sq/m exhibition hall to house the UK's leading manufacturers, distributors and retailers.

Alongside this new 'FMJ Zone', visitors will be treated to demonstrations and have-a-gos of a wide range of shooting sports, from

airsoft to archery and clay shooting to Target Sprint.

Elsewhere are optics demonstrations, gundog scurry, the artisans and classics pavilion, and the Deer Focus area. In short, whatever flavour you take your shooting there will be something to suit you, and a friendly and inclusive atmosphere to enjoy it in.

Single day early bird tickets cost £10 for adults and £5 for children aged 8-15 (under 8s attend free), and include free priority parking.

For more details and to book tickets, visit [www.northernshootingshow.co.uk](http://www.northernshootingshow.co.uk).

## NRA TO HOST ARMS FAIR 2017

For the second year running the NRA is organising the Arms Fair at the Phoenix, taking place on 26-28 May.

This year the event will be held in a 40m x 20m purpose built marquee.

"The show is an important addition to the Phoenix meeting", said NRA commercial manager Chris Dyers. "With over 85 trade stands available, the show is set to accommodate more exhibitors than last year, and it is set to be a great event."

With 70 per cent of stands now booked, organisers are confident that space will sell out very shortly, so anyone interested in exhibiting should contact the NRA as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Trading hours are 8.30am-6.30pm and the event is open to the public.

For further information contact Chris Dyers on 01483 797 777 ex180 or email [chris.dyers@nra.org.uk](mailto:chris.dyers@nra.org.uk).

### LETTER: Direction required

I regularly compete in the Gallery Rifle competition slug shotgun events at Bisley, where the shooter is required to keep the muzzle pointed down once the firearm has been cleared. However, when I attended a competition organised by a different group at the same range I was required to keep the muzzle up. Surely one way is safer than the other? Surely Bisley should have a rule in place rather than different organisations adopting different approaches?

For what it is worth, I prefer the muzzle down – in the worst case scenario the ground is a backstop and the muzzle is well away from my head and torso. With the muzzle up, there is no backstop as such. And the muzzle is closer to one's head and torso in the event of an ND.

There is already a degree of uniformity between the rifle disciplines when it comes to muzzle direction/safety. I would like to see the same uniformity applied to Target Shotgun events.

Brian MacManus

Dear Brian,  
Thank you for your letter. As you allude to the activities of other organisations, it is worth remembering that Bisley ranges are operated for the benefit of NRA members and clubs.

Irrespective of which club/entity is running events, the rules pertaining to the carriage of firearms on Bisley ranges, which can be found within the 'Bible' along with all other relevant information, take precedence over 'club' rules.

Bisley Ranges Regulations (published at Appendix II to the NRA Handbook), section 6 safety regulations, sub section f, state:

## REMINGTON RETURNS TO UK

Remington Arms has appointed Raytrade UK, a subsidiary of Australian firearms giant Raytrade, as the new exclusive distributor of Remington and its associated brands in the UK. Raytrade UK's Hampshire-based facility has been completed and first shipments of stock have now arrived.

Remington products previously came to the UK through Edgar Brothers, but after it switched its distribution to subsidiary company Remington Outdoor (UK) in 2013, shooters complained of a lack of availability of guns and ammunition.

Now, Raytrade UK intends to rectify that across a number of brands including Remington, Marlin, Barnes, Dakota Arms, Bushmaster – though it did say it will pare some product lines down in order to ensure it holds sufficient quantities of stock.

Prospective customers interested in where to find Remington Arms rifles and accessories should contact their local dealers or Raytrade UK direct on 01635 253344 or [sales@raytradeuk.co.uk](mailto:sales@raytradeuk.co.uk).

*"Firearms specified in the NRA GR&P, TS or CSR/PR Handbooks must be carried in accordance with specified rules." This is re-stated at Section 52: Safety Rules, paragraph 123.*

*Referring to the Target Shotgun Handbook: "A3.1.3 – No competitor may touch an uncased firearm except one that has been proved clear and has a safety flag inserted and then only to case / uncased, move to the firing line or to the safety area. All shotguns are to be carried vertically (within reason) muzzle down. Shotguns may be transported around the range as long as they are unloaded, muzzle down, with a safety flag inserted."*

*Therefore should you in future be requested to carry 'muzzle up' please refer the organising entity to the relevant rules and regulations and refuse to do so. Should you see any person breaching the range safety regulations you are urged to report this to the range office. James Harris, shooting committee chairman*

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**HPS will be displaying at the following shooting events in 2017:**

**Bisley Phoenix Meeting** 26th -28th May, 148th **Bisley Imperial** 28th June -22nd July,  
**Trafalgar Meeting Bisley** 21st -22nd October.

*There still may be other dates when we will be coming to Bisley, so if there is anything you need, let us know as we may be at Bisley at that time and can bring down any goods you require. Just give us a call.*

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# 13 months with a 1301

Lucky Tim Jemmett won his Beretta 1301 in an NRA raffle, and it has served him well at clay grounds and Target Shotgun competitions ever since



To be truthful I came across the Target Shotgun discipline by accident. When my friend emigrated to Canada a while back he decided not to take all of his guns with him and offered me his Section 1 Beretta Extrema which he used for Target Shotgun events. Having wandered over to Short Siberia one day and decided it looked like a lot of fun I duly applied for, and got, the necessary variation on my FAC.

I started shooting the Extrema, sporting an EOTech holographic sight on top, in the Target Shotgun events

during the Action Weekends and the Police Nationals. Target Shotgun was rather different to the kind of target shooting I was used to, but I have found that the people who shoot it are very welcoming and helpful to a newbie like me. The events are very well run by a dedicated team of experienced shooters who give up a lot of time to make them a success.

The next logical progression was to have a go at the Practical Shotgun events run by the NRA. After watching a match and participating in the very

first Introduction to Target Shotgun day I entered the November 2015 Target Shotgun Festival. On Sunday I went home with a big grin on my face, firstly because I had just had two great days' shooting – and secondly because I had the unbelievable good fortune to win the Beretta 1301 semi-auto (kindly donated by importers GMK) in the raffle!

## Field testing

Now, 13 months down the line I must say I am still absolutely delighted, and extremely impressed with the gun.

The magazine extension makes for an extremely useful 13-round capacity



It's a fast-cycling gun that's easy and ergonomic to load



Unfortunately other commitments mean that I cannot shoot all the rounds in the NRA Shotgun League, but I have now shot the Beretta in three practical matches and it performs flawlessly with birdshot, buckshot and any slug I have tried in it. The only problem I have had is due to me inadvertently catching the release lever when the action is forward and dumping two rounds onto the carrier – usually in the Embassy Cup where there is no time for error!

There are a couple of aftermarket shrouds available in the US to prevent the lever from pivoting rearwards; check out Aridus Industries or Tau Development Group. Or I could be more careful, of course.

The 1301 now sports a Nordic Components magazine extension which has pushed its capacity up from 10 to 13 without compromising the excellent handling. For Timed and Precision, Multi-Target and Embassy Cup the trusty EOTech sits on top of the receiver

on Beretta's own Weaver-type rail. To remove the plastic plugs in the tapped holes on the receiver simply use a small slotted screwdriver; tap it into the plug and unscrew it, withdrawing the plug without any hassle (or violence!).

I have found the 1301 easy to load and use (as long as you keep your hand away from the release lever when you have the action forward!). The big release handle is great and, like the Extrema, the 1301 is easy to strip and clean. It may not have a 3.5in chamber like the Extrema but hey, it's a competition gun, not a wildfowling gun.

As I have the Beretta on my FAC for vermin and clay shooting I have tried it on Sporting, Skeet and DTL, and have found it works very well indeed. I am not a good clay shot by a long way but my best Skeet score to date was thanks to the 1301. It works fine with most 28g loads and is very easy on the shoulder (as you would expect of this type of gun, especially with an aftermarket

LimbSaver recoil pad fitted).

I would definitely encourage anybody looking for a very capable all-rounder semi-auto to have a good look at the Beretta 1301. If you are reading this and dithering over trying Target Shotgun, as I was a while back, my best advice is: book onto one of the Target Shotgun intro days, have a lot of fun, learn lots (I certainly did) and give it a go. Perhaps even with a shiny new Beretta 1301! ■

### Technical Specification Beretta 1301

**Make:** Beretta

**Model:** 1301 Comp

**Gauge:** 12

**Barrel length:** 21in / 24in

**Chamber:** 3in

**Choke:** 2¾in

**Overall length:** 44½in

**Weight:** 7lb 1.8oz

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# Festival success

This year's Target Shotgun Festival exceeded all expectations, and also played host to the first round of 2017's Shotgun League. James Harris reports



Tim Jemmett supervises Roeloeff Barhausen on stage six

For many years it seemed that Target Shotgun was a doomed discipline, thanks to ever-dwindling participation. For the last five years a small band of enthusiastic devotees have nonetheless turned up to event after event, championing the discipline and encouraging other shooters to give it a try. It seems their efforts have at last been rewarded.

At this year's Target Shotgun Festival (25-26 February) we were faced with a wonderful problem: there were too many entrants – in *all* the matches! All 15 turning targets on Butt Zero were fully occupied with details of TP1, Multi-Target and NRA Embassy Cup, so much so that for 2018 these events may be split into their own standalone weekends.

Printed praise for volunteers generally does not name individuals for fear of causing offence by omission, but it would be a disservice not to recognise the dedication and efforts of two of the sport's mainstays. Peter Matthews' quiet, peaceful manner has put many new shooters at ease, while George Granycome has encouraged countless competitors with his generous words of guidance.

I am pleased to say that, despite working hard throughout, their results do not seem to have suffered; indeed Peter put up a very creditable 118 ex-120 in the NRA Embassy Cup, just pipped to the post by the redoubtable John Chambers' 120 ex-120. It seems that John is on a mission to win everything possible this year, and has made a great

start by adding another four gold medals from five events entered.

In the Multi-Target Manual match, Rob Sanders' score of 112 put him just fractionally ahead of John. In only one event were either of these two smoothbore sureshots not victorious: NRA Embassy Cup Manual was won by Mark LeRiche, returning to Bisley after a number of absences.

## 2017 Shotgun League: Round 1

With pressure to accept as many entrants as possible to the first round of the 2017 NRA Shotgun League, the match was shot on the Saturday afternoon of the Festival, the first time the Festival and the League have been held concurrently. This allowed for another 30 competitors and would



not have been possible were it not for the support of volunteers, mainly from Worcester Norton Shooting Club alongside a few stalwart supporters. Sadly, despite the efforts made, things did not run to plan; with the restricted shooting hours of winter not all competitors were able to complete the match that day. Sunday brought forth better weather along with the remaining 50 competitors, who vied for first place over the seven stages (some of which were considered impossible by informed bystanders).

A brief review of them would not do justice to the many different shooting challenges laid out, but mention of the 'impossible stage' will give a flavour of the match. The start position saw the shotgun loaded and made ready, held by the side in the strong (trigger) hand; the start signal was the presentation of the turning targets that faced for 3.5 seconds; only the highest two hits per target would count.

Impossible? Robin Shelley surely disagreed, winning the stage across all divisions with 6xA, 1xC and 1xD to give a score of 36 ex-40. Speed and precision are not necessarily mutually exclusive!

With all the scoring carried out in real time on the range the results were available on the evening of the match and medals are winging their way by post to the winners.

For the first time the NRA Media team made use of Facebook Live video streaming to share film of the event. This posed

its own challenges and learning points (background noise turned out to be quite challenging, bearing in mind that some 12,000 rounds of shotgun ammunition were fired in a reasonably small area at an average rate of one shot every five seconds!). Footage can be viewed at [www.facebook.com/NRASHotgunLeague](http://www.facebook.com/NRASHotgunLeague).

The prize raffle for the 2016 NRA Shotgun League was held during the midday shutdown. At time of writing more than 1,300 people had watched it online, which is small numbers in relation to the wider

shooting community but significant for a small but growing discipline.

Sponsors generously donated some fantastic prizes to encourage participation at grassroots and it was good to see that they went to competitors whose names do not feature often in Bisley prize lists. You can find the full list on the NRA Shotgun League Facebook page, but the centrepieces were:

■ Beretta 1301; donated by GMK; won by Richard Keeling.

■ Hatsan Raider; donated by Edgar Brothers; won by Steve Probert.

■ Benelli Super Nova; donated by GMK; won by Nigel Chappell.

■ £75 equipment voucher from AW Armoury; won by Dave Barbara.

All sponsors have confirmed their continuing support for 2017, and we have been fortunate to obtain new sponsors as well, which we hope to formally announce soon. Entrants to any league match will have improved odds of winning something great, so please turn up to support your local club if it's hosting one.

Lastly: Facility Solutions will once again be sponsoring the Cottesloe Heath Challenge, along with AW Armoury and others. We are delighted by this news, as we will once again be able to provide an unrivalled prize table for this prominent event in the shotgun calendar, which will be held on the last weekend in July – mark your diary now. ■

| RESULTS: 2017 TARGET SHOTGUN FESTIVAL |                   |        |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| OPEN                                  |                   |        |
| Place                                 | Name              | %      |
| 1                                     | Richard Ingram    | 100.00 |
| 2                                     | Cansh Pope        | 89.92  |
| 3                                     | Max Humphreys     | 72.73  |
| STANDARD                              |                   |        |
| Place                                 | Name              | %      |
| 1                                     | Magnus Gustafsson | 100.00 |
| 2                                     | Chris Gamlin      | 95.21  |
| 3                                     | Ben Ducker        | 87.21  |
| STANDARD MANUAL                       |                   |        |
| Place                                 | Name              | %      |
| 1                                     | John Ellis        | 100.00 |
| 2                                     | Dominic Fung      | 89.39  |
| 3                                     | Conor Keneally    | 88.47  |



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Baffles for 17HMR/22Mag

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Length: 140 mm

RRP £100

# Supporting the forces

**John Morgan-Hosey looks forward to this year's Bisley shoot to raise funds for the Royal British Legion**

Over the last five years shooters have raised more than £30,000 for the Royal British Legion. The 2016 RBL match raised £7,835.50 for the charity. It continues to be well supported by competitors and commercial sponsors.

This year will see the NRA host the match for the second time on 2 September 2017. We hope to see 120 precision shooters take part in the 11-stage match shot at distances from 100 yards back to 600. The course of fire is designed to suit as many shooters as possible, with relatively slow prone deliberate stages, supported and unsupported positional

stages, rapid fire and the extremely challenging Figure 14 snaps at 600 yards. There is no running involved.

The match is intended to test shooters' skill and their equipment, and the stages do not favour any one particular calibre or rifle type. Over the years there have been some good scores achieved by people using factory ammunition and standard out-of-the-box rifles – the emphasis is more on shooting ability than the size of your wallet.

The match has attracted a lot of first-time visitors to Bisley and is an opportunity to meet likeminded shooters

while helping raise funds for the Legion; to that end a proportion of entry fees will go directly to the Legion. Many competitors also seek individual sponsorship from their friends, colleagues and family. Every competitor is automatically entered into the prize draw, which takes place after the match, with a variety of optics, rifle stocks, reloading equipment, bullets, range bags and shooting accessories on the prize table. Entry forms will be available in April so do not delay in signing up as the match traditionally fills up quickly.

Visit the NRA website for more information: [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk).



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# Channelling team spirit

**Rick Shouler, Captain of the NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2016, reports on the team's escapades in Guernsey and Jersey**



Smiling in the face of defeat: The NRA team in good spirits at the Jersey Match

People visualise success in different ways. I gave myself three clear ambitions to help me understand what success looked like for the 2016 NRA Channel Islands team. Firstly, a squad that would gel with one another and form the essence of the word 'team', while being able to contribute individually and learn and develop their own skills. Secondly I wanted this to be a true development tour to enable as many of the team as possible to go on to represent Great Britain on a touring team within the next three years – I look forward to reading of their success in years to come. Thirdly (and this goes without saying), I wanted us to win our matches with solid scores. By those criteria the tour was an absolute success and I am proud of what the team has achieved together.

## The warm-up

As per tradition, the NRA Team kicked off proceedings with a match against the London and Middlesex Rifle Association the day before sailing. The match started promptly at 1pm at 300 yards; conditions were kind with a gentle wind that would increase as we went back to 600 yards. Our 300-yard shoot was fairly

unspectacular, averaging just over 48 per shooter. Socks were pulled up and belts were tightened for 500 yards, which saw a dramatic improvement with the team averaging over 49. While we had not known it, this range was reminiscent of scores to come.

Gary Alexander and Andrew Lothian read the wind well especially at 600 yards and many points were saved, giving us an overall win of 18 points and 16 V-bulls. The LMRA's top gun was Andy Wilde with 147.19 and the NRA's top gun was Rick Shouler with 149.22.



NRA team member Jon Ford looks unimpressed after shooting a 4.5!

## The Guernsey Match

Fort Le Marchant in Guernsey is one of the most beautiful ranges in the world, built on rocky outcrops and nestled between military forts. The range rises with each distance; The sea is used as a backstop for the five targets, and it is common to have to stop firing while boats pass by – something we would experience a few times during the tour.

I had often drilled into the team to expect strong but consistent winds – it is quite common to have 3+ minutes of wind at 300 yards. However, our experience was different – winds were more moderate. This was a good thing as we found that we still had some inconsistencies in wind zeroes from shooter to shooter (something we had worked hard to sort over the training weekends).

Strong shooting was in evidence in the individual shoot. Our Adjutant was on form and proved tough to beat, going clean in the aggregate with 200.28v – though most of the team were only a few points adrift.

Finally it was time for the Guernsey Match, after waiting half an hour for a fisherman who was laying baskets and was clearly not pressed for time. The team was ready for Message 1



A happy marking team kept things moving smoothly

and everything simply fell into place. Everyone knew what they needed to do and when they needed to do it – Gary and Andrew seemed to be at one with the wind and each click of the sights perfect for central Vs.

Wanting to offer the experience to others, the Captain, instead of shooting, decided to act as an external distracting factor. He walked back off the firing point, fell down the steps and sprained his ankle.

The pairs team kept their cool, under the wind coaching control of Cameron Lamont, and put in a fantastic score of 296.29v, with three of the four points dropped on the first range. Lucinda Taylor and Lotti Wiltshire put in what must be one of the best pairs scores over the years.

The NRA team won both events, with the team of eight posting a record score in the Islands from any team and the fourth highest score ever set by a team of eight on NRA targets. All the training we had done over the previous weekends had come together and we couldn't be more proud.

Following the match there was a brief prizegiving and exchange of gifts followed by a swift journey to catch the ferry at St Peter Port bound for Jersey.

### Jersey individual competitions

After a good night's sleep we entered the daily aggs and individual competitions at Les Landes range.

| GUERNSEY MATCH: TEAM COMPETITION |       |       |       |                |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|
| NRA Team                         | 300x  | 500x  | 600x  | Total          |
| T Laing-Baker                    | 50.07 | 50.07 | 50.10 | 150.24         |
| T Dodds                          | 50.09 | 50.07 | 50.07 | 150.23         |
| J Ford                           | 50.04 | 50.06 | 50.07 | 150.17         |
| D Rose                           | 50.09 | 50.09 | 49.07 | 149.25         |
| J Curd                           | 49.07 | 50.07 | 50.07 | 149.21         |
| B Laird                          | 49.06 | 50.04 | 50.08 | 149.18         |
| J Lawrie                         | 50.08 | 50.05 | 50.05 | 149.17         |
| N Healey                         | 50.05 | 50.02 | 49.08 | 149.15         |
|                                  |       |       |       | <b>1195.60</b> |

| GRC Team  | 300x  | 500x  | 600x  | Total           |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| N Mace    | 50.10 | 50.09 | 50.05 | 150.24          |
| M Creber  | 49.06 | 50.05 | 50.09 | 149.20          |
| N Branch  | 49.05 | 50.06 | 50.08 | 149.19          |
| J Branch  | 49.06 | 50.05 | 50.05 | 149.16          |
| P Ogier   | 50.08 | 48.07 | 50.09 | 148.24          |
| N Kerins  | 49.03 | 49.04 | 50.09 | 148.16          |
| P Jory    | 48.06 | 48.06 | 49.06 | 147.20          |
| P Goubert | 49.04 | 48.04 | 48.05 | 145.13          |
|           |       |       |       | <b>1185.152</b> |

| JERSEY MATCH: TEAM COMPETITION |       |       |       |                 |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| NRA Team                       | 300x  | 500x  | 600x  | Total           |
| R Shouler                      | 50.08 | 50.08 | 50.08 | 150.24          |
| J Curd                         | 50.08 | 50.05 | 50.08 | 150.21          |
| J Ford                         | 50.08 | 50.05 | 49.08 | 149.21          |
| T Laing-Baker                  | 50.07 | 49.06 | 50.07 | 149.20          |
| T Dodds                        | 49.05 | 50.05 | 50.05 | 149.15          |
| N Healy                        | 49.09 | 50.08 | 49.06 | 148.23          |
| D Rose                         | 48.08 | 49.06 | 50.08 | 147.22          |
| J Lawrie                       | 49.05 | 48.06 | 49.03 | 146.14          |
|                                |       |       |       | <b>1188.160</b> |

| JRC Team       | 300x  | 500x  | 600x  | Total           |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| A Le Cheminant | 50.10 | 50.09 | 50.05 | 150.25          |
| C Mallett      | 50.03 | 50.08 | 50.02 | 150.13          |
| C Pirouet      | 50.07 | 50.09 | 49.05 | 149.21          |
| B Le Cheminant | 49.06 | 50.05 | 50.09 | 149.20          |
| C Cotillard    | 49.02 | 50.05 | 50.07 | 149.14          |
| B Horwood      | 48.06 | 50.08 | 50.08 | 148.22          |
| R Benest       | 49.04 | 50.07 | 49.05 | 148.16          |
| M Norman       | 49.03 | 47.04 | 50.07 | 146.14          |
|                |       |       |       | <b>1190.149</b> |

Les Landes is another beautifully-kept range, with a unique style of target frame and danger area pointing to sea. We were shooting back to 900/1000 yards, and with very strong coastal winds to contend with, the extra distance proved a challenge.

The scores at 900 yards were good and quite possibly lured some shooters into a false sense of security. When we dressed back to 1,000 yards the wind was so strong that shooters were complaining of not even being able to keep rifles steady due to severe buffeting. It was a case

of pick your moment and try to let off damage-limiting shots!

The long range Jersey Evening Post Trophy was won by Jerseyman Barry Le Cheminant with a fantastic 104.12v; Chris Watson of the Welsh team came second with 103.06v.

Our top gun was our illustrious coach Andrew with 102.8v – followed by our other illustrious coach Gary with 101.14v. We then headed to the Crabbe range, a little further west on the same coast.

After lunch the short-range individual competition got underway with the Percy Whitaker Trophy and the Gallichan 150th Anniversary Trophy. It was a larger field of play with strong competition from both the island and other visitors.

Leading the NRA for these respective competitions was Dave Rose, third in the Percy Whitaker with 100.15v, and Theo Dodds who came fourth in the Gallichan with a 100.11v.

Other notable mentions go to Lucinda Taylor, our top scorer in the Edna Parker Cup, who came sixth with a very respectable 199.24v, and to Dave who went clean with a 200.24v to come 11th in the Sunday aggregate.

Dave Rose also gets a special mention for laughing at his poor shooting partner who

had just put his shot on the wrong target, only to replicate it with perfect style a shot later. It's always a nice central v-bull when you put it on another shooter's target!

### The Jersey Match

Knowing news had reached Jersey of our strong team score in the match against Guernsey, we had a group huddle to discuss the challenge that lay before us. All fired up for the main event, we headed to the range the next day keen to show Jersey how it's done. The weather was sunny and warm; fresh wind from the left kept the coaches on their toes.

It is well known that you cannot win a match at the first range but you can most certainly lose it. Our team held strong, matching the Jersey score but we had the edge on Vs. Sadly, with a few loose shots at 500 yards Jersey pulled ahead by a point. It was still all to play for and we dressed back ready for the challenge.

The team brought it together and shot really well at 600 yards. We were quick and efficient, both coaches working together seamlessly. Our job was done. Our score was final. It was now to sit back and see how Jersey would finish.

Our efforts at 600 yards did not repair the damage unfortunately, and Jersey

had an equally strong range, pipping us by another point and finishing 1190 to our 1188. No disappointment – the match had gone down to the last man.

The pairs match was equally exciting, and our pair Lucinda and Cameron, coached by Becky Laird, put in a fantastic performance to take the win.

It was amazing to see the team in such high spirits despite the loss. We achieved a great deal and everyone enjoyed the trip, with new friendships forged that will outlast the competitions.

The management decided to have an extra day in Jersey for some time to unwind. So with many options available to us on the day, what does a shooting team do on its day off? That's right: more shooting. Next to the Jersey Rifle Association is the Jersey Pistol Club and we were greeted by three very knowledgeable and friendly members who brought an array of hand guns and pistols with them including a .44 Magnum. The competitiveness didn't stop when shooting pistol, and fun was had by all.

After our farewells, we departed for home. A fantastic tour had by all, and it was clear that this was not going to be the end of our team camaraderie. We wish the best of luck to Emma Nuttall's team next year. ■



Cease fire! Another fishing boat brings a temporary halt to the proceedings

# Tremlett's team triumphs

Great Britain produced a phenomenal performance in Bloemfontein to secure their fifth consecutive Australia Match title

The GB rifle team, captained by Nick Tremlett, shot a blistering performance to take first place in the Australia Match 2017 in Bloemfontein on 27 March.

Britain's 10 shooters dropped just 31 points across 400 shots at ranges from 300 out to 900 metres, with Toby Raincock taking particular plaudits for his 199.19v, just one shot straying outside the centre at 900 metres.

The team's final total of 1969.199v put them 26 ahead of Australia (1943.191v), with South Africa occupying bronze medal position (1933.201v) and the USA in fourth (1864.124v).

It was a 'gun to tape' affair for GB, who led after the opening 300-metre stage, dropping just one point to go five ahead of Australia. Just two dropped points followed at 600m, a combined score of 997.122v putting them firmly in control of the match.

The 800-metre stage introduced some uncertainty as, shooting in increasing winds, the GB team surrendered four

points of its lead, Australia's 488.40v proving the best score at this distance.

Incredibly, with the wind still high, the Brits went on to shoot a better total at 900 metres than they had at 800, a staggering 488.39v putting them way ahead of the competition.

This now makes it five wins in a row for Great Britain, cementing its global dominance in Target Rifle. Brits still have some way to go, however, to surpass their nine-in-a-row streak from 1987 to 1999.

## The wins keep coming

Australia got their revenge in the under-25 match, scoring 947.75v to pip Great Britain to victory by just two points and three Vs. But Britain wasn't done winning – the under-19s amassed 1097.68v in the Southern International match to convincingly beat the South African U19s. They did the same in the RSA Junior International Match, with 830.43v putting them 20 ahead of the hosts. And the vets continued the winning streak with their 869.64v in

the veterans' Australia Match putting them eight ahead of the hosts.

Back to the seniors, whose 1769.177v saw them win the RSA International Match too. Then, in the Protea, they made it a clean sweep. Three behind Australia after 300, they dropped just one point at 600 to steal the lead, then dominated at 900 to finish on 1780.213v, 12 ahead of second place.

Team success had always been a possibility but even Nick Tremlett admitted individual wins were more of an outside chance. Toby Raincock made that chance a reality, his aggregate 657.75v making him South African Champion, one point ahead of Parag Patel. The captain himself put the icing on the cake, winning the Presidents with 298.29v, ahead of Matt Ensor and David Luckman in a British 1-2-3.

## Captain's secrets

"It certainly did exceed expectations," was Nick Tremlett's judgement shortly after touching down on home soil. "Our aspiration was principally to win the Australia Match. With the quality of opposition, the chances of a clean sweep were fairly remote. And the chance of me getting the icing on the cake at the very end – it wasn't something I had thought about at any point." If anything, he said, his lack of expectation may have helped when it came to his own shooting!

The sweep, Nick said, was the culmination of 18 months of training and preparation. "The structure of the training was geared to making sure we were able to deal with the level of expectation. We had a team everybody

| Team GREAT BRITAIN   |           |       |               | Competition Australia Match |          | Date 27 March 2017 |          |
|----------------------|-----------|-------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| Capt: Nick Tremlett  |           |       |               | Place 1st (1969.199v)       |          | Points 1969.199v   |          |
| Manager: D. Gledhill |           |       |               | Points 1969.199v            |          | Points 1969.199v   |          |
| Shooter              | Coach     | Shots | Scoring Shots | Score                       | Distance | Score              | Distance |
| 1                    | James, D. | 100   | 100           | 50.8                        | 300      | 50.1               | 47.5     |
| 2                    | Patel, P. | 100   | 100           | 50.1                        | 300      | 50.9               | 47.2     |
| 3                    | Ensor, M. | 100   | 100           | 50.5                        | 300      | 50.5               | 47.4     |
| 4                    | Ensor, M. | 100   | 100           | 50.4                        | 300      | 50.4               | 47.6     |
| 5                    | Ensor, M. | 100   | 100           | 50.7                        | 300      | 50.7               | 47.4     |
| 6                    | Ensor, M. | 100   | 100           | 50.6                        | 300      | 50.7               | 47.7     |
| 7                    | Ensor, M. | 100   | 100           | 50.9                        | 300      | 50.5               | 47.3     |
| 8                    | Ensor, M. | 100   | 100           | 50.7                        | 300      | 50.5               | 47.1     |
| 9                    | Ensor, M. | 100   | 100           | 50.4                        | 300      | 50.4               | 47.3     |
| 10                   | Ensor, M. | 100   | 100           | 49.5                        | 300      | 49.8               | 49.3     |
| 11                   |           |       |               |                             |          |                    |          |
| 12                   |           |       |               |                             |          |                    |          |
| Total                |           |       |               | 499.45                      | 1200     | 498.47             | 1200     |



Richard Jeens was one of three team members who completed the Big Five international shoots

was expecting to be the one to beat. It's easy to get into a situation where that expectation is a distraction from getting on with the job.

"I worked hard to emphasise that our job was not to think in terms not of outcomes but of the processes in place – making those as robust as possible.

"Secondly it was a question of making sure we covered the contingencies. Having everything organised as well as possible frees people up. They are not distracted by things being chaotic – they can concentrate on what they do best.

"I made sure that between distances, their thinking stayed focused on the match. When we performed poorly at 800, it took a bit of gathering people together to make sure we then did the job properly.

"We regrouped. We realised the mistakes we had made at 800. We minimised and eliminated those as much as we could. Part of that was managing when we shot in relation to the wind – the wind here has a definite pattern, and if you follow that pattern and choose your moment carefully, you can ensure you get the best out of the conditions rather than being affected by the worst of them." ■

| FINAL SCORES                   |                   |            |         |           |           |           |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| AUSTRALIA MATCH                |                   |            |         |           |           |           |
|                                |                   | 300m       | 600m    | 800m      | 900m      | Total     |
| 1                              | Great Britain     | 499.65v    | 498.57v | 484.38v   | 488.39v   | 1969.199v |
| 2                              | Australia         | 494.61v    | 494.60v | 488.40v   | 467.30v   | 1943.191v |
| 3                              | South Africa      | 493.58v    | 485.51v | 483.50v   | 472.42v   | 1933.201v |
| 4                              | USA               | 492.50v    | 475.35v | 454.19v   | 443.20v   | 1864.124v |
| RSA INTERNATIONAL MATCH        |                   |            |         |           |           |           |
|                                |                   | 800m       | 900m    | Total     |           |           |
| 1                              | Great Britain     | 887.94v    | 882.83v | 1769.177v |           |           |
| 2                              | South Africa      | 885.98v    | 876.80v | 1761.178v |           |           |
| 3                              | Australia         | 876.89v    | 877.70v | 1753.159v |           |           |
| 4                              | USA               | 862.63v    | 847.49v | 1709.112v |           |           |
| PROTEA MATCH                   |                   |            |         |           |           |           |
|                                |                   | 300m       | 600m    | 900m      | Total     |           |
| 1                              | Great Britain     | 595.84v    | 599.74v | 586.55v   | 1780.213v |           |
| 2                              | South Africa      | 594.66v    | 595.64v | 579.47v   | 1768.177v |           |
| 3                              | Australia         | 598.74v    | 596.71v | 570.46v   | 1764.191v |           |
| 4                              | USA               | 575.46v    | 585.50v | 556.43v   | 1716.139v |           |
| VETERANS AUSTRALIA MATCH       |                   |            |         |           |           |           |
|                                |                   | Total      |         |           |           |           |
| 1                              | Great Britain     | 869.64v    |         |           |           |           |
| 2                              | South Africa      | 861.72v    |         |           |           |           |
| 3                              | USA               | 849.67v    |         |           |           |           |
| U25 AUSTRALIA MATCH            |                   |            |         |           |           |           |
|                                |                   | After 600m | 800m    | 900m      | Total     |           |
| 1                              | Australia U25     | 487.45     | 233.14v | 227.17v   | 947.75v   |           |
| 2                              | Great Britain U25 | 487.41v    | 232.19v | 226.12v   | 945.72v   |           |
| 3                              | South Africa U25  | 478.35v    | 215.10v | 227.8v    | 920.53v   |           |
| 4                              | Canada U25        | 465.30v    | 190.7v  | 190.9v    | 845.46v   |           |
| U25 PROTEA MATCH               |                   |            |         |           |           |           |
|                                |                   | 300m       | 600m    | 900m      | Total     |           |
| 1                              | Australia         | 198.25v    | 195.20v | 191.16v   | 584.61v   |           |
| 2                              | Great Britain     | 197.21v    | 194.16v | 190.14v   | 581.51v   |           |
| 3                              | South Africa      | 196.20v    | 193.15v | 183.8v    | 572.43v   |           |
| 4                              | Canada            | 193.13v    | 190.12v | 169.6v    | 552.31v   |           |
| RSA JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL MATCH |                   |            |         |           |           |           |
|                                |                   | 800m       | 900m    | Total     |           |           |
| 1                              | Great Britain U19 | 421.22v    | 409.21v | 830.43v   |           |           |
| 2                              | South Africa U19  | 412.18v    | 398.19v | 810.37v   |           |           |

# Man of the Match

**We asked last year's Hopton winner, Mike Baillie-Hamilton – who is also the Captain of the Scottish MR team – a few questions about his successes**

**T**he Hopton is the Match Rifle equivalent of the Grand Aggregate in the Target Rifle world. Both competitions are held in July, but while the Grand is shot over six days and the winner will have fired a minimum of 141 rounds, the Hopton winner fires 205 rounds in only four days.

**What do you think makes the Hopton so special? How many times have you won it now?**

The history is part of it – some great names have won it over the years and being classed alongside them gives one a buzz. The distance is also a challenge – much as I have enjoyed TR and small-bore, they are just not the same for me. This was my fourth win.

**You used to shoot TR and have shot the Grand for many years. What would you say are the differences and challenges?**

TR is designed as a level playing field while MR is designed as a competitive technological development zone. As an engineer and frustrated scientist, the latter appeals to me. I think of it as the Formula 1 of rifle shooting, but with my development team of one as opposed to Mercedes' team of 1,000.

Handloading excellent ammunition is a significant part of it. Also, as someone self-employed living in the sticks with a family I do not have the time and opportunity to shoot TR at Bisley every weekend, which is required to excel. The MR calendar is more limited and I do have the opportunity to shoot all the main events and be totally competitive.

**Your most challenging moment in the last Hopton?**

Definitely the first two distances of the Albert. My first shot was out for wind (no sighters) and I got caught for wind a couple more times over the first 30 shots. Rob Lygoe was giving away nothing much and was eating into my lead.

**What was this year's highlight, your best shoot?**

Undoubtedly the final shoot – the Albert 1,200. Though I had shot quite straight, Rob Lygoe had closed to only one and a bit (v-bulls) points, so my margin was nearly gone. At 1,200 the chances of very high scores are usually low, and the wind gods seem to know when the Albert is being held and often turn on the blowers. I still believed that a good steady shoot ought to be enough. As the shoot developed I held one of the tightest groups I have ever made and despite a few fives on either side for wind I finished with 14 bulls including a 4V finish – job done.

Later I discovered Rob had dropped three points and my score was actually the highest on the range so it had not been quite so close.

**Most unusual moment? Perhaps the tie shoot that never happened?**

Yes, a fun moment. I suspected my 100.17v in the second detail of the Cottesloe might be in contention and so checked in with the CRO. He thought the high score off the first detail was Will Meldrum with another 100.17v and so a tie shoot was required. Will and I were read the rules, allocated targets and settled down to fire. Then Peter Seeböhm rolled up just to see what all the fuss was about and said, "Why are you holding a tie shoot when I scored 18 Vs?"

**Apart from the Hopton you took the majority of silverware home – will they feature at dinner parties over the next year?**

Yes, hopefully. Paula and I have just renovated the old family home and the new dining room table is big enough. I can't deny that it feels good if you can show off the silver to friends. My family saw the prizegiving on the NRA Facebook page while staying with friends – their eyes came out on stalks! ■



**Mike with his haul of silver at last year's Imperial**

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|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| P14 sniper excellent barrel and optics .....                          | £1200     |
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| Manufactured By C&G   |           |
| No 4 longbranch 1944 mk1* mint 5 grove barrel .....                   | £795      |
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| Dated 1935 very good barrel   |           |
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| FR8 7.62X51 Bolt Action Rifle Para Military .....                     | £525      |
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| Ishapore Jungle Carbines 2A1 7.62X51 VG Barrel, .....                 | £625      |
| 10 Round Mags   |           |
| Ruger 10/22 Semi-Auto 22LR Rifle ATI Stock, .....                     | £750      |
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| Mausers K98 Preduzece 44 7.92mm/8mm Bolt Action .....                 | £375      |
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| 32 Colt Short Winchester .....        | £63/100    |
| 380 Auto Winchester .....             | £32/100    |
| 45APC S&B .....                       | £41/100    |
| 50cal BMG .....                       | £70/20     |
| 44Mag PPU FPJ .....                   | £55/100    |
| 44Mag S & B soft point .....          | £58/100    |
| 45 Long Colt magtec .....             | £55/100    |
| 30 m1 carbine S&B .....               | £46/100    |
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| 38 special lead round nose .....      | £32/100    |
| 357 lead flat nose .....              | £40/100    |
| 357Mag S & B soft point .....         | £38/100    |
| 357Mag S & B FMJ .....                | £40/100    |
| 357Mag PPU FPJ .....                  | £42.80     |
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# Past made present

**A new range of targets have been developed for historic rifle shooting.  
HBSA Chairman Derek Stimpson explains**

**T**hose who shoot at Bisley with historic rifles have, for a number of years, used a variety of targets supplied by the NRA and other sources. Some, such as the Cadet Tin Hat face, have scoring rings of very generous dimensions, but the NRA Round Bull faces have become progressively smaller in line with the improvements in rifles and ammunition since the introduction of 7.62mm TR in the early 1970s. Many of the older rifle/sight combinations are incapable of grouping within the bull of these targets, even with our much-improved and handloaded ammunition. The supply of HBSA-dimensioned faces stored by the NRA has now run dry.

## **The problem**

In late 2015 the NRA announced that, for cost and efficiency reasons, from 2016 only standard NRA Round Bull faces, Fig 11 and Fig 12 faces and the usual Gallery targets would be stocked. NRA black and white Tin Hat faces were no longer be available. The supply of Cadet Tin Hats would soon be exhausted and the Sand and Sky types are expensive.

On top of that, the NRA would no longer be able to store any privately-owned or 'one-off' style targets such as those that the HBSA used previously, due understandably to the time and manpower spent pasting on faces and adding extra scoring rings by hand. For

the HBSA and other historic shooters this decision, understandable though it may be, posed a major problem!

The NRA has always been most supportive of historic shooting as an important part of the NRA heritage. Historic shooting requires specific targets that reflect the 'golden era' of competitive Service Rifle shooting. Following discussions between the NRA and HBSA, the NRA very kindly agreed to obtain and fund a new series of Round Bull and Tin Hat targets for 200, 300 and 500/600 yards, to be called the 'NRA/HBSA Historic Target' and held in stock. This was briefly discussed in the last issue of the *National Rifle Association Journal*.





### The solution

Examination of NRA records revealed that, during the .303 era, the aiming mark and scoring ring dimensions of Bisley targets had barely changed between 1932 and 1971 – even when they moved from Tin Hat to Round Bull. However, when the .303 was phased out and 7.62 came in, a number of changes occurred. Firstly a v-bull was introduced to reduce the number of ‘possibles’ in competitions. The scoring rings were reduced in size, first in 1972 and then on two further occasions, to reach the current 2016 dimensions. At the same time, the aiming mark (black) was enlarged considerably as bladed foresights and ‘laying-off’ for wind were replaced by easier-to-centre ring foresights and click-stop adjustable rearsights.

If the NRA could produce one set of targets for 200, 300 and 500/600 yards to 1932/1971 dimensions, of which the Tin Hat was exactly one half of the Round Bull equivalent, and a v-bull could be added to both to keep the best shots happy, then the problem would be solved. Producing a historic version of the 900/1,000 yard long-range target would not be feasible because of numbers used.

The only restrictions that the NRA placed on our faithful reproductions of the past were that both the 200- and 300-yard faces had to fit within the 36in square bolt-on panels that are now used on Century and Short Siberia ranges. This has resulted in the outer scoring ring being slightly reduced at 200 yards and rather more at 300 yards, to ensure it fits on the board. The 500/600 yard faces are unaffected by this requirement as they are not bolt-ons.

These targets, available in both Round Bull and Tin Hat versions, are now in stock and have already been used at the 2016 Trafalgar Meeting. They will become the standard target for NRA historic events and may be ordered by shooters who do not wish to use NRA Round Bull targets at medium range when booking range space. Hopefully they will satisfy most historic shooters as they can be used with a wide variety of rifles from muzzleloaders to early TR, and with both iron and telescopic sights.

So we now have a set of historic targets for short and medium range that reflect the targets used by our predecessors from 1932 until the start of the 7.62 era in the early 1970s.

Although the scoring rings are more generous, you will note that the black (aiming mark) is smaller than the current 2016 dimensions of NRA targets. This is just as it was in the heyday of .303 Service Rifle shooting and it is the same width as most SMLE/No.4 .303 foresight blades (6MOA) at all distances, making laying-off easier. (In 1932, the 300 yard aiming mark was only 12in wide – not 18in as it was in 1971!)

We must thank Andrew Mercer and the NRA, and in particular Rick Wells, Peter Cottrell and the range staff, for their considerable help and input in supporting this venture. Thanks also go to Mike Townsend, HBSA Range Practice Officer, for all his work, and member John Fennell for his meticulous research into the history of target development and his assistance with this project. ■

### NRA/HBSA HISTORIC 2016

#### TARGET DIMENSIONS IN INCHES

|             | 200   | 300   | 500/600 |
|-------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Aiming mark | 12    | 18    | 36      |
| V-bull      | 3.5   | 5     | 10      |
| Bull        | 5     | 7.5   | 15      |
| Inner       | 12    | 18    | 36      |
| Magpie      | 24    | 30    | 48      |
| Outer       | 35    | 35    | 72      |
| Hit         | 46x46 | 46x46 | 70x60   |

### NRA 2016 ROUND BULL (COMPARISON)

#### TARGET DIMENSIONS IN INCHES

|             | 200   | 300   | 500/600 |
|-------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Aiming mark | 16    | 22    | 39      |
| V-bull      | 2.1   | 3.3   | 6.3     |
| Bull        | 3.5   | 5.5   | 10.5    |
| Inner       | 7     | 11    | 26      |
| Magpie      | 10.5  | 16.5  | 39      |
| Outer       | 16    | 22    | 52      |
| Hit         | 46x46 | 46x46 | 70x60   |

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# Going the distance

**Raf Jah heads out to the Welsh countryside to tackle long-range targets with WMS Firearms Training**



The view of the quarry from the firing point, 300m distant

Great Britain has a surprising number of long-range shooting areas. Many of them are military ranges, access to which is restricted to affiliated NRA clubs and governed by the requirements of HM Armed Forces, often leading to shoot cancellations when our nation is militarily active. The benefit of club membership, on the other hand, is that range fees for the ultra-long ranges are cheap.

But there are a handful of private, professionally constructed and properly insured ranges that welcome target shooters and conduct specialist courses. One of these is operated by WMS Firearms Training, based in Ystrad Meurig, west Wales.

The true scale of the beauty and desolation of the Cambrian Mountains becomes apparent when you get close to Ystrad Meurig. The contrast is stunning: from deep valleys, large stone cottages and winding narrow roads to the



Big bore: The .338 is WMS instructor Andrew Venables' round of choice

explosion of colourful fields that cover the lower hills, which in turn give way to bleak, verdant blunt peaks scattered with sheep.

At WMS, we finally meet the people we have been talking to for the last three years. Andrew Venables is a charismatic man whose experience is extremely varied; Helena is cool, calm and very organised. WMS is a multi-discipline organisation that trains zoos, hunters and government employees in wildlife management and safe culling. Finally, after all the waiting, Nick and Andy load up Andy's Land Rover while I jump in with Andrew Venables in his Ford 4x4. We arrive with few expectations save those we have gleaned from the internet. We are expecting perhaps one pit with some targets and a drive back to various firing points. Andrew takes us back through Pontrhydfendigaid and up through some farms to WMS Area Two, our first of a few firing positions.

Nothing could have prepared us for the array of targets available to us from this firing position. To our right is a quarry with some steel targets visible at 300m; in front of us steel deer and foxes; and to our left, a lone steel Fig 11 some 700m away. In the distance are some gongs marking 1,000m.

Below, a small river bed is set with a series of wildlife targets requiring dynamic positioning – impressive and challenging. The distances start at 50m and work up to 250m. Each target is specifically placed to ensure the marksman has to change his position as he walks up the narrow gully.

I have a go with the L42A1 and find myself half-sitting half-lying on the side of the gully with the rifle resting on the grass. It's stirring stuff and costs all my

energy and patience to get a first-shot hit on a metal deer. This course of fire is cleverly designed for stalkers who have to hit their quarry with the first shot every time.

Meanwhile, Nick and Andy have broken out their .338 LMs and are accurately banging away at targets that start at 300m. They quickly work their way out to 1,000m and 1,300m – I can't complete the walk up the gully as I have to stop and remain parallel to them.

After some time they are consistently hitting targets at 1,200m – time to catch up I feel. I have recently bought a second-hand Remington 700 in .300 Winchester Magnum, seated in an old Accuracy International AW stock, and it does the job. We are all happily shooting

out to 1,200m but soon run out of alternative targets.

We stop for lunch, taken in a strategically positioned sheep trailer. Andrew lays on tea, coffee and milk. After this we change angle and move to another hill to allow us to shoot squarely into the quarry at 1,000m (1,100 yards). I enjoy stretching the 20in-barrelled AR10 out at this distance – to my surprise, it pings off the Fig 11 targets regularly.

Andy and Nick only use .338s; spotting for each other, they quickly work their way through the near targets at 1,000-1,300m. Soon, with some guidance from Andrew, they are both happily hitting the gong at 1,500m. Having come this far, I know I ought to join them. The



Distance learning: Targets at 1,200 metres may look daunting – but they're only the beginning

Remington 700 comes out again and I try to get shots on beyond 1,200m.

Here's where I run into trouble with ammunition supply. I have some 190gn Sierra MatchKing made by Federal, which is accurate but costs me £3 a round. I worked my dope out the day before but now I can't get spot on with the Federal beyond 1,000 yards. My ballistic calculator can only get me in the ballpark. My continued efforts leave me running low on rounds. Luckily, WMS sells me some HPS 200gn SMK .300 Win Mag ammunition. With my new load, I need to make a plan.

Andrew Venables is in his element here. He is a truly gifted spotter, one of a handful of people who can almost sense which spot of grass moved and which did not. He allows me to do some Kentucky calculations on the hoof, and uses intelligent guesswork to translate Federal dope (which I now have) into HPS dope.

I stop shooting and take my time. Using Istrellok ([www.borisov.mobi/istrellok](http://www.borisov.mobi/istrellok)) and pencil and notebook, I am able to make a ballistic chart that gets me on target within two rounds at successive distances.

All of this is confirmed by Andrew. Watching the swirl of the descending round and making accurate estimations of the impact zone, he is able to guide us all on to the most challenging target of the day,



Andrew Venables takes the team out to another long-range firing point

a small gong on the edge of a waterfall. As soon as we are within 12in of the target the surrounding rock gives significant feedback and allows for the minor adjustments needed to get on target.

In my case I consistently clip the disk at 1,600m. I am not bothered. If I am 2in off, at the end of three days of shooting (and hundreds of rounds of ammunition), with a sore shoulder and bleary eyes, then I am very happy. I don't always need to hear the ping.

Andy stretches out and hits the waterfall target repeatedly at 1,600m. Andy is the most scientific of us, so Nick and I sit back with a cup of tea while he rings the gong at the mile.

The light is still strong at 5.30pm when we are all almost shot out. Just before the end of the day, Andrew Venables springs one final surprise on us. He produces an Enfield No4 rifle. The world-famous .303 sports iron sights. "Let's try this one at 1,000 metres," he says.

The No4 is spot on, with the Sierra MatchKing bullets coming in slightly higher than Mk7. The big boar in the pit takes numerous hits.

"The .303 is on me," Andrew says graciously when I try to pay for the 30-odd rounds that I have put down-range.

The day comes to an end and we transfer our kit back to our own vehicles for the journey home. I will not make the ammo mistake again – I send all my used .300 Win Mag cases to Fultons to be loaded with A-MAX 208gn bullets (Fultons will know better than I whether there is life left in the brass or whether I would do better to purchase more instead).

'One round, one dope for each calibre' – there's always something to learn. ■

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With no 'dope' to speak of, it's time for some quick-fire calculations



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# Training update

Whether you're looking to improve your shooting or support your club's development, consider booking onto an NRA training course

## Probationary members' training

The NRA probationary members' training scheme continues to attract strong support, introducing new shooters to the sport. Additional days have been scheduled for 2017 to include a number of weekday slots, which are proving popular.

The training programme consists of five one-day compulsory modules covering a wide spectrum of fullbore and gallery rifle shooting and includes range safety and procedures, zeroing and sighting, basic firearms maintenance and target marking. It has proved to be a successful and effective model, with increasing numbers of young people taking up the discounted price of £289 for the package (40 per cent discount for under 25s).

## Skills development courses

Moving from successful completion of a probationer course to full participation in a club or competition can be daunting

for some. The series of discipline days offer new members, and those keen to improve their marksmanship, discipline-specific training to build confidence.

These days are run by volunteers, with highly-experienced instructors giving their time to enthuse new shooters into the sport. Feedback from these courses is consistently positive. Course dates are listed on the NRA home page.

Upcoming course dates:

TR Basic Skills: 29 and 30 July

CSR Advanced Skills: 7 May

Target Shotgun Basic Skills: 23 April; 20 May

Muzzleloading: 19 November

## RCO course

RCO courses are delivered at Bisley and regionally. The current course is recognised by the MoD and is a requirement for civilian clubs using DIO ranges. For clubs who do not use military ranges we are developing a Club Range

Safety Officer Course, with roll-out expected by September this year. This will also be available at Bisley and regionally.

## Muzzleloading RCO course

This course is run by the MLAGB on behalf of the NRA. Candidates who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate from the MLAGB and an endorsement on their NRA RCO qualification card.

## RCO renewal

In 2017 we will be implementing a new procedure for renewals. This is designed to provide the assurance that NRA RCOs have maintained best knowledge and practice. At the point of renewal, the submission of the renewal form will generate a written test for each applicant. This will need to be successfully passed before the new card is issued. Instructions for the new procedure will be announced in due course.

### **NRA Club Instructor (General Skills) course**

This classroom-based two-day course is designed to provide experienced club members with the qualification that they need to be able to officially train new and existing shooters, within their own clubs, to the standards of safety and competence required by the NRA Safe Shooting System.

The course is not based on any discipline, and instead takes a wide-ranging approach. To begin with it concentrates on the safety elements that are common to all types of shooting. Topics include such things as communication skills and instructional techniques, as well as the use of firearms in a club context. Further modules include: ballistics, how firearms work, different sighting systems, ammunition, ranges and relevant aspects of the law.

Attendees can expect a busy two days. Candidates are expected to demonstrate their knowledge, and their ability to instruct, by means of written tests and practical exercises. The course is intended to be as enjoyable as possible.

### **NRA Club Coach (TR)**

TR is a discipline that especially benefits from good coaching. Together with the TR Rep, Charles Dickenson, we are developing a Club Coach course to help



Covering everything from TR to Gallery Rifle, probationary members' courses have grown sharply in popularity

clubs develop the skills to enhance TR shooting regionally and thus encourage participation at county and national level, including the Imperial Meeting. Details will follow shortly.

### **Other training: Black powder/ Muzzleloading course**

This course will provide training in the safe and competent use of black powder/ muzzleloading firearms (percussion pistols, black powder revolvers, musket and muzzleloading rifles). Involves both classroom and range work.

### **Handloading course**

Intended to help the complete beginner

decide whether handloading is the way forward. At its conclusion participants should feel confident producing safe precision handloaded ammunition for their firearm.

### **Bespoke courses**

The NRA conducts training for many organisations including the Met Police, Home Office and expedition group leaders. These are tailored to appropriate verified groups and are subject to range and instructor availability.

Full details and booking forms for all training courses are available online at: [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk).



RO renewals will ensure their skills remain current



CSR advanced skills are on the skill development calendar for 2017



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# Sporting in the veld

**The South African teams made the most of their home turf advantage at the International SR Competition 2016 – Steve Wallis and Cornelius Schalkwyk report**

**K**een members will have noticed an additional Sporting Rifle competition (5685) in the NRA Phoenix Meeting in recent years. Those who have shot in it will have noticed a contingent from South Africa competing to great effect.

These shooters were from the South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association (SAHGCA) and, in October 2016, they held an international Sporting Rifle shoot at Balfour, near Johannesburg. Teams from Australia and the UK were invited to join them. The British Sporting Rifle Club and Aldershot Rifle and Pistol Club sent a combined UK team.

The first day of competition was warm and windy but, fortunately for the UK shooters, three of the targets were familiar to them as they form the basis of the competition held during the Phoenix Meeting (the Roebuck, Fox and Springbok). However the shooters had not anticipated the strength of the wind which was blowing strongly from the left; with few flags and little ground cover it was very difficult to read. Shooting distances ranged from 50m, standing unsupported, to 300m shot prone.

Competitors were in good spirits and the hosts displayed great sportsmanship, even loaning equipment to those in need.

With three very strong teams selected from more than 41,000 members, the SAHGCA was always going to have the advantage and unsurprisingly took first, second and third places in the competition. Despite difficult conditions the UK shooters held onto fifth place, with Australia in sixth.

On the second day, the competition was an FT event with metal gongs placed at indeterminate distances of between 150m and 450m. Competitors fired five shots at the 8in-diameter gongs at each of the six different stages, with targets placed both on level ground and up in the hills, adding that little extra challenge to the task of



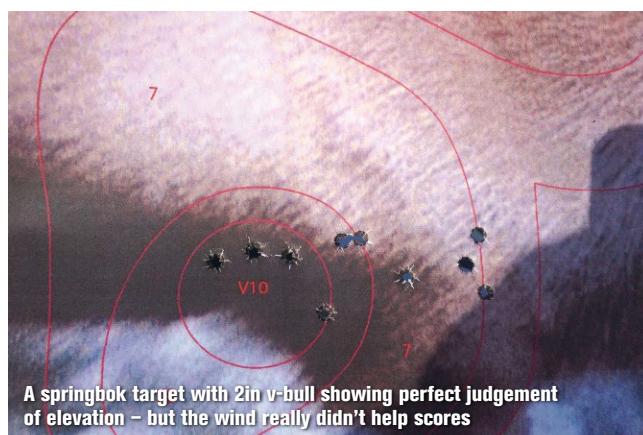
The UK team (L-R): Morne van Dalen, Cornelius Schalkwyk, Douglas Green, Angie Forster, Keith Cox and Colin McMichael



Shooters take aim at an 8in gong at unknown distance up in the hills



Sporting Rifle shooting at static warthog targets – similar to Phoenix meeting events



A springbok target with 2in v-bull showing perfect judgement of elevation – but the wind really didn't help scores

## The objective was to present a well-organised, safe, fun-filled and challenging shoot that simulated veld conditions – it certainly achieved this

judging range and working out elevation changes – rangefinders were not permitted! The objective of this competition was to present a well-organised, safe, fun-filled and challenging shoot that simulated veld conditions and it certainly achieved this.

At each stage competitors had to adopt a specific shooting position, even using tripod sticks. The event was won by a local team of five shooters with a very strong score of 131 ex-150. Despite

tough conditions, and having never shot anything like this before, the UK shooters put up a very creditable score of 77 ex-150, managing to finish 24th out of 31 teams entered and thoroughly enjoying this new experience.

A World Championship event is being planned by the South Africans for 2019, which will include Sporting Rifle competitions such as this. While we do not have the range facilities to match

those in South Africa, we do have our own Sporting Rifle event coming up in the NRA Phoenix Meeting in May 2017. Entry to the competition is for individuals but there is a Challenge trophy, presented by SAHGCA, which will be awarded to the best aggregate score for a team of four shooters from clubs or organisations. More information can be found in the NRA Phoenix Meeting Handbook on the NRA website, along with entry forms for those looking to take part. ■

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|      |                               |
|------|-------------------------------|
| SP   | -Soft Point                   |
| PSP  | -Pointed Soft Point           |
| SPBT | -Soft Point Boat Tail         |
| SPRN | -Pointed Soft Point Boat Tail |
| HPBT | -Hollow Point Boat Tail       |

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# An LAC Kerr at Bisley

**It's old meets new as Paul Wolpe takes some 150-year-old muzzleloading hardware out for a spin on the modern-day ranges at Bisley**

Getting the best results from a 150-year-old rifle is an absorbing business. Muzzleloading military match rifles were soon outclassed by dedicated target rifles but their accuracy was a huge improvement over the rifles of the day. They can still be shot with consistent results at short and mid-range.

Their history is contemporary with the birth of the NRA. The only competition specific to these rifles now is the Volunteer Trophy, shot annually at 600 yards by the Long Range Rifles Branch of the MLAGB. The LAC Kerr is a contemporary of the more famous Whitworth military match rifle.

Joseph Whitworth, the pre-eminent mechanical engineer of the day, was commissioned by the War Office to investigate rifle design and came to the conclusion that a calibre of .451 and a rifle twist of one-in-20in gave the best results. The bore of his rifle was hexagonal and a bespoke bullet of hexagonal section was used.

Whitworth's rifle proved almost six times more accurate than the Enfield service rifle, according to trials carried out in 1857. Queen Victoria famously inaugurated the first NRA meeting at Wimbledon with a shot from a Whitworth military match rifle, fired from the specially-constructed rest that

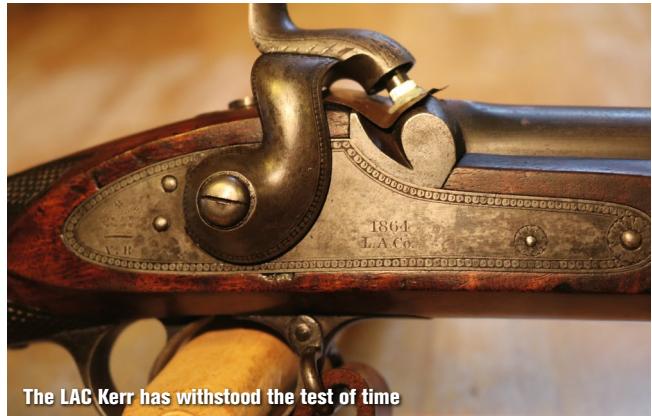
is now on display in the NRA museum. It struck within 4.5in of the centre of the bull at 400 yards.

Whitworth's rifling was not the only solution, but the rate of twist he had arrived at seemed to be optimal and was widely adopted. Many other rifling forms were patented. Kerr's six-groove ratchet type incorporated an initial short straight section before increasing up to a steady one-in-20in. The ratchet rifling was intended to effectively grip on the bullet while the gentle slope away from the face of the ratchet form was said to reduce friction and the problems of fouling.

The Kerr rifles were manufactured at the London Armoury Company in



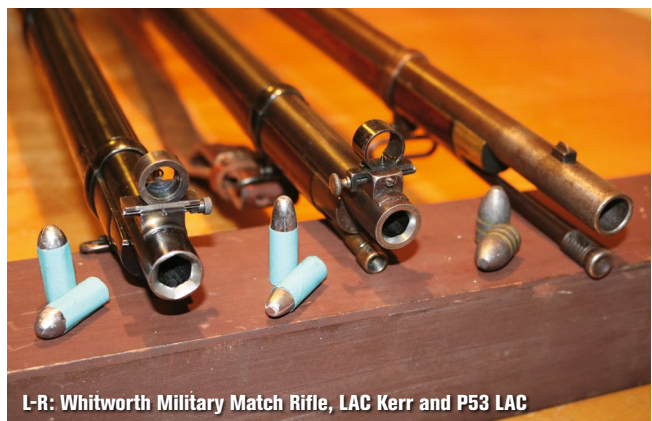
The Volunteer Trophy, awarded in the only competition specific to military match rifles



The LAC Kerr has withstood the test of time



The rifle is fitted with a sophisticated rear sight



L-R: Whitworth Military Match Rifle, LAC Kerr and P53 LAC

Bermondsey, on the same machines that were used to produce the military Pattern 53 Enfield rifle. They could be supplied complete with an interchangeable barrel of .577 calibre and, as all the parts were interchangeable, the owner had a maintenance advantage when compared with other small-bore rifles featuring non-standard locks and furniture.

The rifle pictured is a fine example with nicely engraved lock and metalwork. The bore is in good condition and retains its

original brass-tipped ramrod. Three bullet types were tried. Two were cannellured and should theoretically have worked, but from the outset the performance of the paper-patched bullet was so superior that testing became an attempt to find an the appropriate charge for that.

A charge of 85gn of Swiss 3 produced 2in groups at 100 yards, but at 600 yards it seemed to increase to something like 4MOA. The wind allowances are more than double those of a 7.62 centrefire. Once in the firing position,

lateral adjustment is out of reach on the foresight; aiming off is the only solution in rapidly changing wind conditions.

When the elevation for 600 yards was established, we noticed that a line was engraved with '600yds' on the back of the sight exactly where it had ended up. From the style of figures it looks to be historic. This would indicate that the bullet weight and load arrived at were similar to those used in the day. I suppose a former owner of the rifle might know otherwise. ■

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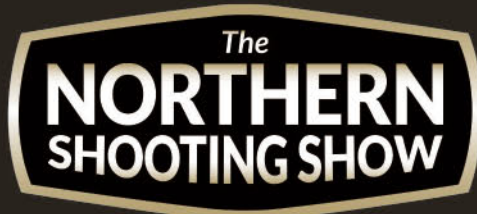
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# Double gunning running deer

Derek Stimpson explores the historical ties between BSRC and Olympic Running Deer

For those of us who shoot the running deer at British Sporting Rifle Club – perhaps even with a double rifle from time to time (as I am lucky enough to do) – having it as an Olympic discipline can only be an enigma now. I do not think it is something to which one might aspire in the present Olympics, even if I could shoot a consistent string of fives!

It is something that Cyril Mackworth-Praed did in the 1924 Paris Olympics – the same games where Eric Liddell won the 400m race portrayed in the film *Chariots of Fire*.

Curiously it was another interest, entomology, through which I first knew the name Mackworth-Praed. We were members of the same entomological society; I was a new member at that time.

He was also a well-known ornithologist, specialising in the birds of Africa. He authored the six volume series *Handbooks of the Birds of Africa*, for which he was awarded the OBE.

Subsequently I met his son Philip, a founder and fellow member of the BSRC. We exchanged memories and stories. He was able to enlighten me on the photograph of the 1924 Olympic team, which hangs in the BSRC clubhouse.

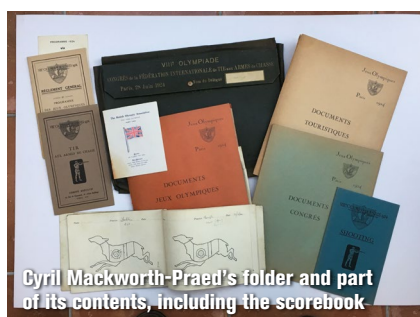
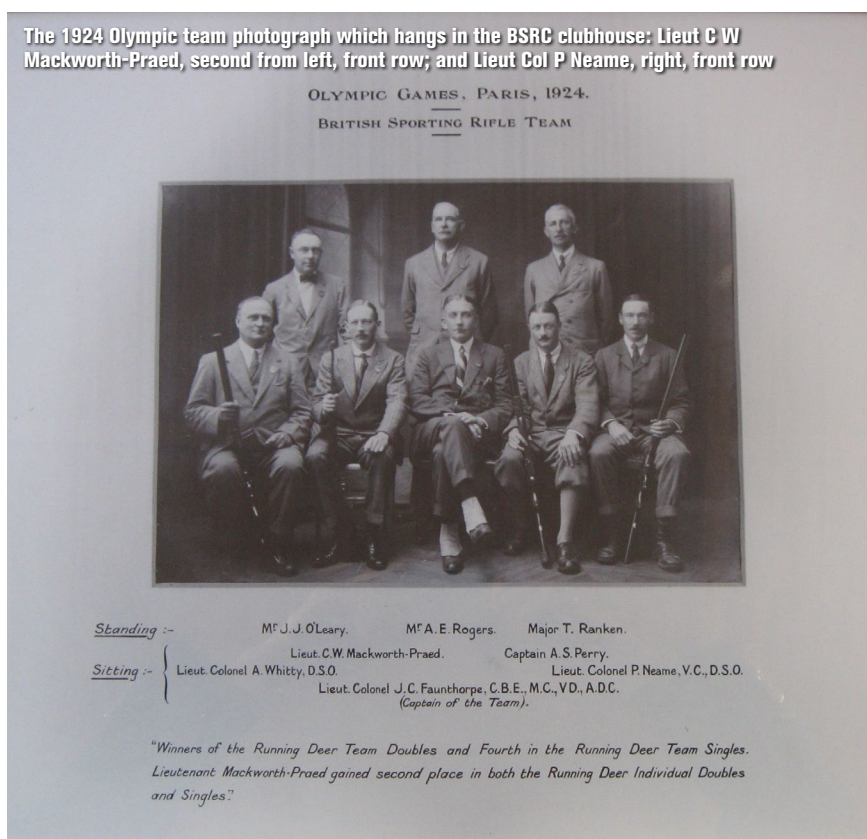
As a double rifle collector and user, I had always been intrigued by the apparently identical double rifles the four of them are holding. After Philip gave me the background and his father's papers to review, still in their original folder, it became evident that these are Holland & Holland side-by-side Jones screw underlever rifles, in .240 Apex calibre.



Philip Mackworth-Praed (left) working on stats with Alice Gran during a BSRC big game rifle match, watched by Australian competitor Bob Christopher



Some items given to each team member at the 1924 Games, including the block of special issue stamps and score cards annotated by Philip's father



### Tracing history

I decided to investigate the rifles and visited Holland & Holland – something I do frequently, as a collector of double rifles can't avoid it. They were, as usual, most helpful.

An article in *The Field*, dated 10 July 1924, recounts that Holland & Holland provided 10 rifles 'free of all cost': four doubles and six 'magazine' rifles (presumably bolt-action). The calibre of .240 was chosen as most suitable. Work started, according to the article, in October 1923.

The trademark for the .240 cartridge was registered on 20 August 1919. The .240 Apex cartridge came in both rimless for bolt and rimmed for double rifles.

Bearing in mind the calibre's 'start date' of 1919, the work start date of 1923 mentioned in *The Field*, and the Olympic meeting date of 1924, there was quite a small window of time to research in the books. There was no batch of four double rifles, and indeed no specific rifles were found. It was a mystery, unless the double rifles were rebarrelled from earlier small calibre ones such as .360 2¼in – which the underlever might indeed suggest. Pat Murphy at Holland & Holland continues the research.

Philip recounts that, after the Olympics, the double rifles were offered to each of the team members for £1,500 or £1,600 – a lot of money then, and not a penny discounted! The offer was not taken up by any of the team members. I wonder where the rifles ended up?

### Olympic efforts

In the 1924 Olympics Cyril Mackworth-Praed won two individual silver medals: running deer single and double shots. He tied for the two gold medals but lost the shoot-offs. GB won

the team gold medal for running deer double shots, with Cyril Mackworth-Praed the highest scorer. His personal certificate of participation in the 1924 games is currently hanging in the NRA museum at Bisley.

The GB team also achieved fourth place in the running deer single shots and eighth place in the Team clay pigeon event (CWMP was a team member). He also shot in the individual trap but we do not know the result.

It is noteworthy that Lieut Col P Neame, also in the 1924 team (see photograph), is the only VC holder who was also an Olympic medal winner. He won his VC for action at Neuve Chapelle on 19 December 1914, and went on to fight Rommel in the desert campaign in WW2.

In 1952 Cyril Mackworth-Praed was again shooting in the Olympics, in Helsinki, finishing 13th out of 14 (the 14th being the other Great British representative, Ingram Capper). The gap of 28 years is believed to be the longest separating two appearances at the Olympics.

The self-loading .30 calibre rifle that he used in 1952 is in the NRA museum. Sadly this has been deactivated – an unfortunate destruction of heritage resulting from the ban on centrefire self-loading rifles following the Hungerford tragedy.

We also have another BSRC member who is an Olympic medal winner. John Kynoch won the bronze medal for running game target (running deer) in the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich.

The shooting world has changed immeasurably since 1924. It is unlikely that we will ever see running deer as an Olympic discipline again but at least British shooters are making a name for themselves – or perhaps it is better said, maintaining our heritage and the name that the British have always had for excellence in shooting in all disciplines.

Shooting not only remains popular in the UK, in many disciplines, but it is a growing sport. NRA membership reflects this and is also steadily growing. Long may it continue. ■

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# From the range office

Stickledown Range will be the next frontier in modernising the Bisley ranges



In October 2016 the NRA invited four electronic target manufacturers to demonstrate their electronic target systems at Bisley. Intarso, HEX Systems and Silver Mountain accepted the invitations. The practical evaluation commenced on Stickledown Range on 1 November 2016, culminating on 17 February 2017.

Members were invited to shoot at the targets free of charge in return for feedback. The evaluation was slightly constrained by other maintenance that was happening on Stickledown Range at the time and the majority of shooting could only be conducted at 900 yards and 1000 yards. Fortunately a large number of members took the time to shoot at the targets and provided a plethora of information which has proved invaluable in our evaluation. We are very grateful for the cooperation and participation of all members that took part.

Of the three manufacturers that partook, two provided 'closed' or box target systems and one supplied an 'open'

system. Both systems function in a similar manner and as you would expect there are advantages and disadvantages to both.

On the closed 'box' target, when the projectile penetrates the front of the target it passes through a sealed acoustic chamber. A sound wave is generated inside the chamber which spreads in a similar manner to ripples in water. The time it takes the sound wave to reach acoustic sensors situated around the periphery is measured; the location of the strike can thus be accurately triangulated. A shot hitting the frame of the target may generate error readings, and the shot coordinate cannot be calculated correctly. A shot that does not hit the target will not be detected.

The open target system uses acoustic sensors attached, or adjacent, to the target face to triangulate the position of shots. The microphones are adjusted to pick up shots on and near that target only. Only shockwaves generated by supersonic bullets can be detected. The

target controller detects the shockwaves at each of the acoustic sensors and, from that, shot positions are calculated. The open system can provide a reading of the bullet's terminal velocity and also nearby shots that do not hit the target.

It was accepted from the outset that further development of the systems may be required if we were to employ them during competitions or to broadcast results. The overall aim at this stage was to determine the suitability of automatic target systems for use in long-range target shooting at Bisley in disciplines supported by, and under rules authorised by, the NRA.

In simple terms we required the strike of the shot to be relayed accurately to the firing point when shooting at distances between 800-1200 yards.

The manufacturers were provided with several key requirements but previous experience dictated that system reliability, maintainability and the availability of support were foremost concerns. Key



The Silver Mountain e-target system fixed to an NRA short range target



HEXTA e-target systems installed during testing on an overseas range

requirements were the system's ability to:

- Be weather resistant
- Record bullet strikes fired from 800-1200 yards
- Provide accurate, consistent indication of shot strike
- Relay strike data to shooter in real time
- Not be affected by shots on neighbouring targets
- Not require maintenance during shooting hours
- Be adequately supported by the manufacturer in the UK

Other factors taken into consideration are included at the end of the article for completeness. It was difficult to prove reliability and maintenance requirements during the trial; instead, questionnaires were sent to each manufacturer, focussing on availability of support, predicted target life and through-life costs.

After the practical evaluation, an accuracy trial was conducted by Iain Robertson, the NRA's Technical, Safety and Legal Manager. The ability of each system to relay accurate strike data had, to a certain extent, been taken for granted. However a trial seemed appropriate to confirm this assumption.

Iain conducted a test comparing physical strike coordinates that were measured in the butts to electronically measured coordinates relayed to the firing point. Iain is currently number

crunching but his report is imminent.

Finally we have requested quotes from all three manufacturers and will commence the decisionmaking process in the near future, confident that we have sufficient information and data to make an informed decision from:

- Manufacturers' data
- Members' assessment
- Manufacturers' questionnaire addressing:
  - Support
  - Through-life costs

- Predicted life
- Documentation
- Training
- Physical evidence of performance and durability
- Accuracy assessment
- Purchase cost

We hope to be in a position to place an order by the end of March 2017, with an aspiration to install a number of electronic targets on Stickle-down soon after the Imperial Meeting. ■

### Addendum

The following additional criteria were taken into consideration during the evaluation:

- Standards and consistency of strike reporting
- Effects of subsonic and supersonic impacts
- Effect of the rate of fire, during 'squadded' competition, on the target system
- Effect of inclement weather on the systems
- System reliability and maintainability including training, skill and knowledge requirements
- Target diagnostics indicating target health and accuracy reporting
- Increased hazards or risk associated with the use of electronic targetry compared with those associated with conventional targets. This is particularly pertinent to the manual handling aspects of target preparation and installation
- Mechanical, electrical and fire hazards associated with the installation and power supply to the targets
- Mechanical robustness during handling
- Infrastructure requirements for an operational installation
- Power requirement
- Security requirement
- Compatibility with existing rules and conditions of shooting/competition
- To determine the intrinsic accuracy of the system
- To identify the preferred formats for controls and displays

# DIO fees static

**Nicholas Couldrey, NRA Regional Ranges Manager,  
with the latest updates from ranges across the nation**



Only two sentries are now required  
when shooting at Vaxter Range

I have recently returned from the North West where I was the guest of Tameside Shooting Sports Association Ltd, which reopened its club last year. The club is located in a splendid former Drill Hall in Mossley, with two indoor ranges and comfortable facilities for shooters. I am pleased to report that membership is now back to pre-closure levels and the Heritage site is operational. There is still much work to do and I watch progress with interest.

The NRA was in the north-west to respond to a request from Greater Manchester Police to provide a briefing to six firearms enquiry officers (FEO). I joined NRA Chief Instructor Charles Perry at GMP's facility in Openshaw to run through NRA probationary training, RCO training and some of the work we do with other forces.

FEOs have a complex role and really appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the NRA, the Safe Shooting System and the network of clubs in the region. This was an invaluable exercise; I am convinced that developing a close and continuous relationship with local licensing staff will make all our lives easier.

I joined a meeting of NRA affiliated clubs licensed to shoot on DIO ranges in the South West at Westdown Camp on

8 February. The objective of the meeting was to discuss current range licensing requirements, range safety, the booking process, fees and charges. Our host was Major Ewan Smith, Training Safety Officer for Salisbury Plain, supported by Mark Hudson from Landmarc. Key points from the meeting were:

- Range users should be aware of the risks associated with an increase in unauthorised incursions into range danger areas. RCOs and shooters must be vigilant, particularly on Salisbury Plain.
- Clubs are reminded that RCOs must hold up to date NRA qualifications, including HME certification when these firearms are used. All shoots must have a qualified first aider with a valid first aid kit.
- Clubs should make bookings with at least 90 days' lead time. DIO will endeavour to provide early notification of cancellations/changes.
- Range Standing Orders have been updated and clubs should ensure they have latest copies; they can be obtained as part of the range recce.
- Yoxter range now requires only two sentries; this is good news for local clubs and should make future bookings more affordable.

More broadly and of interest to all affiliated clubs: DIO fees will not increase in 2017 but will be reviewed in 2018. Charges for Bulford have been clarified to the satisfaction of licensed clubs.

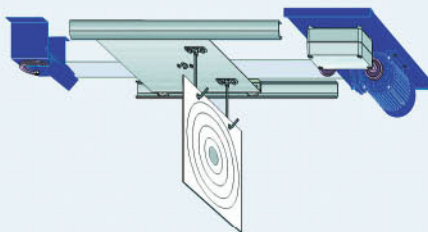
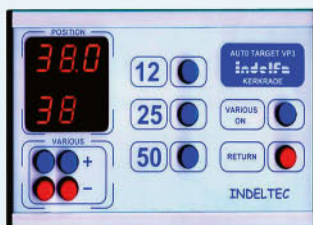
Clubs are encouraged to renew their range licence early and ensure that Home Office Approval is up to date. A list of members will be required annually as part of the licence renewal.

I have been advised that the rollout of the new MoD electronic range booking system (BAMS) has been suspended until upgrades have been implemented to the infrastructure. Clubs should continue to use the existing process with Landmarc's regional event coordinators.

In other regional news, the new Anglo range in Shepton Mallet hosted an NRA Gallery Rifle skills development and competition coaching course over the weekend of 18-19 March. I hope this to be the first of many regional events to be held at this terrific facility.

Finally, in early March I joined regional shooters taking part in the Derbyshire Challenge at Thorpe Cloud, which the NRA sponsored.

See you on the ranges! ■



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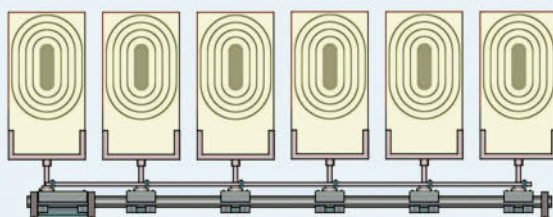
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# Club focus

Looking for somewhere new to shoot? The LMRA is open to new members

## LONDON AND MIDDLESEX RIFLE ASSOCIATION

**An active, historic club ground at the heart of British shooting**

The London and Middlesex Rifle Association (LMRA) was first established, and built its distinctive clubhouse, in 1908. We have been shooting at Bisley and around the world ever since.

The LMRA clubhouse was built with strong support from three shooting clubs: the Stock Exchange Rifle Club, the IBIS Rifle Club and the Honourable Artillery Company. The LMRA has maintained its strong support for fellow shooting clubs ever since, with many smaller clubs affiliating to us so that their members can use the LMRA clubhouse and facilities.

In 1963 the LMRA was officially registered as a charity and has been fulfilling its charitable objective to encourage shooting ever since. While the cost of maintaining the clubhouse and providing a full service to shooters throughout the year is very high, the small surplus that we make is reinvested into shooting activities at Bisley and other ranges. Today the clubhouse is open to members, their guests and members of our affiliated clubs, five days a week from January to December.

The LMRA draws its membership from the whole of the British Isles and beyond (as far as Australia), and our members represent all the shooting disciplines. We primarily organise events for Target Rifle and Match Rifle, with active participation also in Civilian Service Rifle and F-Class shooting.

Historically the LMRA was focused on service rifle and pistol shooting, with target rifle and match rifle becoming more active disciplines as shooters sought higher accuracy on the ranges. More recently, Civilian Service Rifle and F-Class have been growing in popularity, with our



Historics and classics have grown to form part of the LMRA's regular activities

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**More recently, CSR and F-Class have been growing in popularity and our members are also keen participants in muzzleloading, classic rifle, clays, gallery rifle, target shotgun and long-range pistol**

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members getting more involved in both these disciplines. In a survey of lunchtime diners at the clubhouse we found that our members are also keen participants in muzzleloading, classic rifle, clays, gallery rifle, target shotgun and long-range pistol.

The majority of our matches against other clubs are held at Bisley, but we also have regular fixtures where we travel to other clubs' home ranges, in Lancashire, Scotland, Guernsey and Jersey. We very much enjoy travelling as a team to these events, and in addition every few years we take an LMRA shooting team on an overseas tour. Previous destinations have included New Zealand, Australia, the USA, Canada and the West Indies.

In addition to matches, we run regular 'spoon targets' where members can book

a timeslot to shoot on the target, and the results from different days at different distances are added up to award prizes to the top shooters in each class.

The LMRA runs regular training for our members and works with the other Bisley clubs to provide probationary and basic TR skills training for the clubs and on behalf of the NRA. We are currently working to expand this training to include other disciplines and to cover more advanced shooting skills.

The matches, spoon targets and training all benefit from a subsidy as part of our objective to encourage shooting.

The LMRA runs annual open competitions that are open to members and non-members alike, including our Schools Meeting, Cadet Meeting,



Regular TR tuition is part of the club's service



Matches and 'spoon targets' provide regular competition



Accommodation in St George's Lodge

Match Rifle Individual and Team competitions, and in September our Open TR/F-Class meeting.

In the clubhouse we have two dining rooms (for cafeteria-style meals and for formal team dinners and events), a comfortable bar, a full members' bar, and sleeping accommodation for those visiting Bisley for a full weekend or more of shooting.

The LMRA also looks after St George's Lodge, which provides comfortable en-suite accommodation to Bisley shooters – whether LMRA members or not.

The clubhouse has two armouries with secure lockers that our members and affiliated clubs use for storing rifles and ammunition, and we also have a reloading room for members who like to load their own ammunition.

We like to think of the LMRA as a very welcoming club, which is always there when you need a hot cup of tea and lunch on a cold Bisley day, or somewhere to have a beer with your fellow shooters after an afternoon on the ranges.

We actively encourage new members of all abilities to join us on the ranges, whether in mentored shoots alongside our matches, as part of the match team itself, on our spoon and practice targets and in our training activities.

To find out more about the London and Middlesex Rifle Association, come to the clubhouse bar and pick up a membership application, or get in touch using the email address below. ■



The LMRA clubhouse, a familiar sight at Bisley for over 100 years

### Get in touch

Address: LMRA, Club Row, Bisley Camp,  
Brookwood GU24 0PA  
Contact: David Lloyd,  
Membership Committee Chairman  
Email: [secretary@lmra.co.uk](mailto:secretary@lmra.co.uk)  
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# Meet the reps

Whatever your preferred discipline we've got the updates  
and diary dates you need this year

## CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE

*John Morgan-Hosey – Civilian Service Rifle  
and Practical Rifle Discipline Representative*

### 2016/17 Winter League

The NRA Civilian Service Rifle Winter League is a series of dynamic shooting matches held monthly from October through to April. We regularly see more than 120 competitors taking part. A typical match day consists of two separate events, each of around 50 shots, taken at distances from 600 yards down to as close as 25 yards. At the end of the season, trophies and medals are awarded for first to third place in four classes.

At the time of writing the leaders in each class were as follows:

#### Historic Enfield Class

Hywel Davies 783.64 pts

#### Iron Sights Class

Doug Gross 926.44 pts

#### Practical Optic Class

Nick St Aubyn 965.42 pts

#### Service Optic Class

Adam Chapman 975.96 pts

The staple course of fire is the Short Range Match, which combines most of the elements needed to succeed in CSR. It consists of 50 shots fired over five stages, with competitors trying to score '10-Wash' – the maximum score of 50 points for each stage. One or two 10-Wash scores by a competitor in a match is not uncommon while three is rare. The record score was 246, set by Dave Wylde in April 2015, until John Chambers shot an outstanding 248 in February 2017, dropping only one point in each of the Standing and Sitting Rapid stages. It will be hard to beat, but I know some competitors will give it a go.



## NRA CSR Imperial

The national competitions for CSR will be held at Bisley as part of the Imperial Meeting (28 June-2 July 2017). There have been some minor rule changes introduced for 2017 that will be published in the NRA Handbook Vol 6. The Handbook will be available to download from the NRA website well before the Imperial and will also be made available in hard copy.

Individual championships will be held for each of four classes over four days, with

the final individual matches taking place on Saturday 1 July. The hugely popular Falling Plates competition will also take place that day, shot in two classes (Historic and Modern). This match sees four-shooter teams compete in a knockout match to see who can knock down a bank of 10 steel plates in the quickest time from 200 yards after a 100 yard dash to the firing point. Always well supported, the Falling Plates is open to any club that wishes to put forward a team.

The concluding Imperial CSR event is the Civilian Methuen Team Match. This will take place on Sunday 2 July. Up to 20 teams will compete for two trophies in Modern and Historic Classes; each team of six shooters will complete the 52-round Short Range Match course of fire, with the scores for each team posted behind the firing point. The two prestigious Mauser and Mons trophies will be awarded to the top scoring teams in Modern and Historic class, and the individual Kukri and Bayonet trophies will be awarded to the highest individual scores in each class.

## F-CLASS

*David Kent – F-Class Discipline Representative*

### F-Class Shooting Calendar 2017

Bookings taken at [www.gbfcass.co.uk](http://www.gbfcass.co.uk)

#### Round 3

20-21 May

Venue: Diggle Ranges.

Organiser: Les Holgate.

Long Range

#### Round 4

24-25 June

Venue: Bisley.

Organiser: Mik Maksimovic.

Long Range Challenge 800, 900, 1000yd.

### Imperial Meeting

14-18 July

Venue: Bisley.

Organiser: NRA. Match Rifle and F-Class. A five-day event for F-Class Open and FTR shooters. Starts gently on the Friday with three shoots, then four shoots a day ending Tuesday 18 July with the International Teams Match and the finals of The St George's and The Farquharson.

### F-Class World Championships

7-17 August

Organiser: FCWC Canada

#### Round 5

25 September-1 October

European Championships. Venue: Bisley.

Organiser: Mik Maksimovic. Long Range 800, 900 and 1000 yards. Individuals and Teams matches.



### Want To Get Into F-Class?

21-22 October (TBC)

Training Weekend. Venue: Bisley.

Organiser: Mik Maksimovic.

#### Round 6

4-5 November

Venue: Bisley.

Organiser: Mik Maksimovic.

Long Range

## MUZZLELOADING

*Paul Wolpe – Muzzleloading Pistol and Rifle Discipline Representative*

### MLAGB Event Calendar 2017

#### April

7-8 Long Range Rifles Branch,

600/800yd Asquith (Enfield) Cup,

600yd Volunteer Trophy (pm), Bisley

9 National 300yd Free & Enfield Rifle

Championship, Bisley.

22 North of England Championships

(Shotgun)

Greystone Wood Shooting Ground,

Weston Moor, Otley, Yorkshire

#### May

6-7 Repeating Pistol Meeting, Bisley

12 National 200yd Free & Enfield Rifle

Championship, Bisley

13 Long Range Rifles Branch, 900yd

Championships, Bisley

14 National 500yd Free & Enfield Rifle

Championship, Bisley

20-21 Pistolfest & Schutzenfest,

Wedgnoek, Warwick

21 National Cannon Championships,

Wedgnoek, Warwick

27 Scottish Muzzleloading

Championships (Shotgun), Leuchars,

Fife

#### June

10 National 600yd Free & Enfield Rifle

Championship, Bisley

10-11 National Pistol Championships,

Bisley

11 Long Range Rifles Branch, 1000yd

Championships, Bisley

17 Hornsey Wood Open Pigeon Match,

Rugby & District Trap Club

#### July

22 National Clay Pigeon

Championships, Yeaveley Shooting

Ground, Derbyshire

#### August

5 National 900yd & 1000yd Free Rifle

Championship, Bisley

6 Long Range Rifles Branch, 1100yd &

1200yd Metford Trophy, Bisley

19-20 Black Powder 2017, Wedgnoek

20 National Cannon Champs, Wedgnoek

#### September

16 Autumn National Sporting Clay

Pigeon Champs, Stoke Orchard,

Gloucestershire

16-17 Short Range Rifle Champs,

Wedgnoek

16-17 English Pistol Champs, Wedgnoek

17 National Cannon Champs, Wedgnoek

23-24 Scottish Pistol Champs, Largs

#### October

7 National Flintlock DTL Championship, Sywell Ranges

7-8 OTF Open Rifle/Pistol Competition, Wedgnoek

8 National Muzzle Loading Skeet

Shoot, Eriswell Lodge Shooting Ground, Lakenheath, Suffolk

21 National Percussion DTL

Championship, Sywell Ranges

28 Long Range Rifles Branch, 600yd

Whitworth/Rigby Cup, Bisley

#### November

18-19 OTF Open Rifle/Pistol

Competition, Wedgnoek, Warwick

## MATCH RIFLE

Alex Cargill Thompson – Match Rifle  
Discipline Representative

The Match Rifle season starts with various club matches and spring open meetings.

### May

1 London & Middlesex RA MR Individual Championships, Bisley ([www.lmra.co.uk](http://www.lmra.co.uk))  
6-7 English VIII Spring Meeting, Bisley ([www.englishheight.org.uk](http://www.englishheight.org.uk))  
20-21 National Rifle Club of Scotland Spring Open Meeting, Blair Atholl ([www.nrcofs.org](http://www.nrcofs.org))

### June

3 London & Middlesex MR Team Match, Bisley ([www.lmra.co.uk](http://www.lmra.co.uk))

### Stickledown 1,200x Target Dates

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| ▪ 1 May AM        | ▪ 6 Aug PM       |
| ▪ 5 May PM        | ▪ 28 Aug AM      |
| ▪ 6 May PM        | ▪ 16 Sept PM     |
| ▪ 7 May PM        | ▪ 23 Sept PM     |
| ▪ 21 May AM       | ▪ 24 Sept AM     |
| ▪ 3 June All Day  | ▪ 14 Oct All Day |
| ▪ 17 June All Day | ▪ 15 Oct All Day |

If you want to get involved, contact your country's MR captain, or email the MR Rep: [match@nra.org.uk](mailto:match@nra.org.uk).

## TARGET RIFLE

Charles Dickenson – Target Rifle Discipline Representative

TR sub-committee objectives this year:

- Arrange more Target Rifle discipline days
- Introduce more Target Rifle skills and instructor/coach training courses
- Encourage young shooters to remain in the sport after leaving cadets/scouts/university
- Increase attendance at the Imperial
- Review target dimensions

These objectives have been outlined in the NRA Bulletins emailed to members on 27 January. They have also been discussed in the 'UK Fullbore Target Rifle' group on Facebook, which I recommend joining.

Several TR Discipline Days are intended this year, to allow members to try Target Rifle and find out how to get involved.



If you wish to help develop the future of Target Rifle, especially by encouraging those who are new to our discipline, please volunteer to give Charles a hand with these initiatives. Contact him at [target@nra.org.uk](mailto:target@nra.org.uk) with an indication of the help you can offer.

### TR Skills Courses

Target Rifle Basic Skills courses have been scheduled for 8-9 April (NRA), 27-28 May (Bisley Clubs), 29-30 July (NRA) and 9-10 September (Bisley Clubs).

These courses teach you all you need to know to shoot TR competently (safety, equipment, position, aiming, shot release, sight adjustment, use of scoresheets [plotting], wind, weather, mirage, and competition and team shooting). They include time in the classroom and on the range and are ideal for those who are new to TR or want to shoot competitively.

An Advanced Target Rifle Skills course is also being developed, to take club shooters up to at least County standard. You can book NRA courses through the NRA website. Contact [briancudby@uk2.net](mailto:briancudby@uk2.net) for details of the Bisley Clubs courses.

The NRA is in the process of developing courses to qualify Club Coaches, able to coach individual shooters and deliver the basic skills courses to groups of shooters.

### Encouraging young shots

The British Young Shooters Association (BYSA) has been established to encourage shooters to remain in the sport after leaving school, scouts, cadet forces and university. BYSA runs events for those who want to continue shooting TR, CSR or small-bore. Visit the website at [www.youngshooter.co.uk](http://www.youngshooter.co.uk), or the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/britishyoungshootersassociation](http://www.facebook.com/britishyoungshootersassociation).

### Target dimensions

Target Rifle target dimensions reduced in 1974, 1988 and 1995, as a consequence of improving scores. Other than a slight reduction in the size of the v-bull in 1998, target dimensions have not changed since 1995. The UK's target dimensions are now the largest of any Target Rifle shooting country in the world. A review of target dimensions is currently under way.

Any recommendation must be approved by the Shooting Committee and the NRA Council and any changes will be notified by the end of this year for implementation from January 2019.

### Wireless devices

Wireless communication devices are currently prohibited on the firing point, to prevent unauthorised communication with the butt marker or receiving advice from people away from the firing point. However,



ICFRA rules have been amended to permit them. The NRA is investigating whether Bluetooth headsets could be allowed. The major issues are ensuring teams cannot listen to other teams, and policing misuse.

## TARGET SHOTGUN

*James Harris – Target Shotgun Discipline Representative*

### NRA Shotgun League 2016

The league results have been posted on the NRA website and also on the Facebook page – if you can't find them please email me.

The final positions in the Grand Aggregate were:

#### Open

- 1 – Richard Ingram
- 2 – Peter Matthews
- 3 – Cansh Pope

#### Standard Manual

- 1 – James Harris
- 2 – Mark Sienesi
- 3 – Magnus Gustaffson

#### Standard Manual

- 1 – Iain Guy
- 2 – Jon Holloway
- 3 – Steve Cox

### NRA Shotgun League 2017

For 2017 there will be 10 matches in the league – dates and contact info are

on the website. Please also see the NRA Shotgun League Facebook page for regular updates. You will also find the dates for the Handgun and Minirifle league matches on the Marksman's Calendar.

### Rule changes for 2017

After requests from a number of competitors and to ensure a level playing field, new classes will be introduced catering for shotguns fitted with Iron sights only.

This will mean that existing records for any sights will stand. On an administrative basis you will default into Any Optic class unless you select otherwise on the relevant entry form or scorecard. The only events affected are 07 Timed and Precision 1, 1- Multi-target and 33 NRA Embassy Cup

### NRA Handgun League

The league saw year on year growth in participation and looks set to grow further in 2017 with the addition of yet another new venue at Birmingham shooting Centre.

The 2016 grand aggregate winners were:

#### LBP Open

- 1 – Russell Hicks
- 2 – Tim Gardiner
- 3 – Christopher Edwards

#### LBP Standard

- 1 – Jon Axe
- 2 – James Harris
- 3 – Shaun Twomey

### LBR Open

- 1 – Gareth Biddle
- 2 – Peter Matthews
- 3 – Martin Hale

### NRA Mini Rifle League

The grand aggregate winners for 2016 were:

#### Mini-rifle Open

- 1 – Jon Axe
- 2 – Josh Hicks
- 3 – Mark Sienesi

### NRA Handgun league match, Frome and District

An early start to the year to make the best use of the new ranges at Shepton Mallet Target Sports centre saw the first round of the 2017 Handgun league hosted by Frome and District Pistol Club on 7 January. The inventive mind of match director Neil Brooklyn brought forth a challenging competition, made even harder by the fact that he threw the door open to new ideas from club members, who created some intriguing systems to force the competitors into awkward shooting positions that tested the ability to maintain correct sight picture and trigger control.

Imagine an inverted T with activator buttons at the end of each three-foot limb. The snag is that not one but two buttons had to be depressed to expose the targets. It soon became clear not only who really had the fine art of pistol shooting mastered but who also had been keeping up with their yoga lessons.

The less than flexible among us were able to redeem themselves over the other seven stages, which were a combination of fast and furious short-range shooting and long courses with plenty of movement between firing points. With a short intermission owing to a fire alarm, the match ended after 160 rounds had been fired by each competitor. Tim Gardener collected the LBP Open class first place and Jon Axe picked up similar honours in the LBP Standard class.

If you are interested this type of shooting, Frome has an active membership and runs regular practice and training sessions. Contact [info@fdpc.org.uk](mailto:info@fdpc.org.uk).

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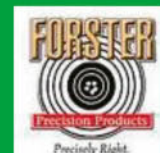
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# Results

## NRA Shotgun League 2016 Overall

Name, avg across all league  
matches, avg of matches entered

### Open

- 1 R Ingram 78.68, 96.16
- 2 P Matthews 59.69, 65.66
- 3 C Pope 47.18, 86.49

### Standard

- 1 J Harris 85.45, 85.45
- 2 M Sienesi 71.63, 98.49
- 3 M Gustafsson 67.89, 82.98

### Standard Manual

- 1 I Guy 62.65, 98.45
- 2 J Holloway 60.35, 82.98
- 3 S Cox 56.25, 68.74

## NRA Handgun League 2016 Overall

Name, avg across all league  
matches, avg of matches entered

### LBP Standard

- 1 J Axe 98.19, 98.19
- 2 J Harris 79.04, 79.04
- 3 S Twomey 67.99, 67.99

### LBR Open

- 1 G Biddle 65.61, 91.86
- 2 P Matthews 62.58, 87.61
- 3 M Hale 47.27, 82.73

### LBP Open

- 1 R Hicks 75.35, 86.11
- 2 T Gardener 69.82, 93.09
- 3 C Edwards 63.66, 84.88

## NRA Mini-Rifle League 2016 Overall

Name, avg across all league  
matches, avg of matches entered

- 1 J Axe 98.71, 98.71
- 2 J Hicks 91.57, 91.57
- 3 M Sienesi 77.55, 93.05

## CSR Winter League Match, 5 February

Short Range Rural

### Historic

- 1 H Davies 100.00
- 2 T Stevens 93.00
- 3 J Foreman 75.00

### Iron

- 1 A Littler 100.00
- 2 D Cross 95.95

### Practical

- 1 J Morgan-Hosey 100.00
- 2 B McManus 96.65
- 3 N St Aubyn 96.23

### Service

- 1 J Chambers 100.00
- 2 W Ellis 98.39
- 3 A Chapman 97.18

### Urban

### Historic

- 1 T Stevens 100.00
- 2 H Davies 90.16
- 3 J Foreman 82.79

### Iron

- 1 A Littler 100.00
- 2 D Cross 95.65

### Practical

- 1 D Moran 100.00
- 2 N St Aubyn 98.37
- 3 J Morgan-Hosey 96.20

### Service

- 1 A Chapman 100.00
- 2 P Cottrell 97.89
- 3 L Chisholm 97.37

## 50th Northern Ireland TR Championship

### Target Rifle Champs

- 1 R Kitson 266.26
- 2 N Healey 264.29
- 3 M Cooper 262.29

### F/TR Champs

- 1 J Taylor 252.07
- 2 G McGarrigle 249.18
- 3 K Clancy 246.22

### F/Open Champs

- 1 J Donaldson 260.27
- 2 M Bannon 252.13
- 3 P Richardson 247.21

### Classic Champs

- 1 D Gregg 199.06
- 2 A McClenaghan 150.02
- 3 D McNeill 128.01

### TR Grand Aggregate

- 1 R Kitson 227.21
- 2 N Healey 226.21

- 3 M Cooper 223.25

### F/TR Grand Aggregate

- 1 J Taylor 222.07
- 2 K Clancy 219.24
- 3 G McGarrigle 215.16

### F/Open Grand Aggregate

- 1 P Richardson 222.23
- 2 J Donaldson 222.22
- 3 M Bannon 220.14

### Classic Grand Aggregate

- 1 D Gregg 189.06
- 2 J Farrell 131.00
- 3 I McGill 130.00

## Trafalgar Meeting 2016

### Vintage Service Rifle Single Shot Medium 200yd

- 1 L Kranen 43.2
- 2 L Brown 41.0
- 3 L Foreman 40.1

### Vintage Any Rifle 600yd

- 1 J Brocklehurst 42.4
- 2 C Silver 42.1

### Classic Any Rifle 200yd

- 1 P Bysshe 49.4
- 2 J Meyers 48.6
- 3 L Foreman 46.5

### Classic Service Rifle 200yd Prone

- 1 D Gruner 49.2
- 2 M Waldvogt 48.3 (2)
- 3 S Voak 48.3 (1)

### Classic Vintage BL & CF Schutzen Rifle 200yd

- 1 N Doe 71.2
- 2 L Welsh 53.0

### Veteran Service Rifle 200yd Prone

- 1 C Willson 48.3
- 2 M Waldvogt 47.5
- 3 P Bysshe 47.3

### Veteran Enfield Minute Rapid 200yd

- 1 R Green 56
- 2 R Stenner 49

### Open .22 SR Running Boar 55yd

- 1 J Black 152
- 2 N Greenaway 150

- 3 M Deakin 146

### Open Any Rifle Historic Running Deer 110yd

- 1 D Stimpson 33
- 2 D Willey 31
- 3 S Voak 30

### Open McQueen Sniper Civilian 200yd

- 1 D Nash 49.1
- 2 G Dutton 40.1

### Open McQueen Sniper Military 200yd

- 1 A McCauley 49.0
- 2 I Hollingsworth 48.0
- 3 G Horton 47.0

### MLAGB Target Pistol 25m

- 1 D Berry 92.2
- 2 J Lewis 92.1
- 3 L Pearson 91.0

### MLAGB Standard Revolver 25m

- 1 J Lake 89.1 (1)
- 2 M Cutler 89.1 (0)

### Gallery Rifle Any Centrefire 50m

- 1 I Grant 137.17
- 2 L Pearson 135.15
- 3 M Maldar 134.16

### Duelling Repeating CF Gallery Rifle 25m

- 1 O Eckhardt 197.12
- 2 D Hönersch 197.08

### Surrenden Repeating CF Gallery Rifle 25m

- 1 A Podevin 72.8
- 2 Mick Tedesco 72.7
- 3 J K Ball 71.8

### Advancing CF Gallery Rifle Manual 25m

- 1 W Horne 146.18
- 2 O Eckhardt 145.21
- 3 I Grant 145.14

### The Halford Aggregate

- 1 M Silver 136.3
- 2 C Gert 130.4

### Classic SR Short Range Aggregate

- 1 N Beeby 96.0
- 2 J Mead 93.1

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# NOTICES

## Procedure for the General Council Elections 2017

### Eligibility of Candidates and Proposers

Only persons who are Registered Members of the Association and who have fully paid up their subscriptions for 31 March are eligible to be Candidates for election to the General Council and to be Proposers for such Candidates.

### Regional and Shooting Discipline Candidature and Voting

Those voting for Regional Candidates must live in the appropriate Sports Council Region, even though their nominated Candidates for election may live elsewhere.

Those voting for Shooting Discipline Candidates must have previously declared that Shooting Discipline to the NRA as their primary Shooting Discipline.

Eligibility for voting will be determined as at 30 April 2017.

### Curriculum Vitae

In order to assist the Registered Members with their choice of representatives in the election, a CV for each candidate will be provided with the voting papers. A draft of no more than 150 words should accompany the nomination. A passport-sized photograph of the candidate will accompany

all CVs. A content layout for the CVs is on the pro-forma.

The Chief Executive will refer back to authors where CVs are too long or are or appear to be factually incorrect.

### Programme of key date for elections

#### 31 March

All Candidates and Proposers must be fully paid-up Registered Members of the Association by this date.

#### 30 April

Nominations for all vacancies must be returned to the Chief Executive by 5pm on this date.

Registered Members must be qualified for voting for their respective Regional or Shooting Discipline Candidate by this date.

All Members wishing to vote must be fully paid-up Registered Members by this date.

#### 22 May

Voting slips will be posted out to all entitled Members by this date together with the procedures for voting.

#### 13 July

Voting slips in the correct envelope supplied must be received by the NRA office by mail or by hand, no later than 5pm on this date.

### Scrutineers appointed by the Council

To be notified after the Council Meeting on 22 April 2017.

### Results

All results will be confirmed at the General Council meeting in September.

### Routine Vacancies

There will be the following vacancies in 2017, all of whom are entitled to stand for re-election.

#### Five Ordinary Members

JPS Bloomfield (GM2 SC)  
Wg Cdr (Retd) DP Calvert MBE (GM3 SB3 SC)  
DC Crispin  
GMLN Gilpin\*  
TS McDowell

#### Four Regional Members

HRM Bailie – Northern Ireland  
GV Barnard – East Midlands  
TLW Kidner – Scotland\*  
DG Young – North Western\*

#### Four Shooting Discipline Members

Dr AMW Cargill Thompson – Match Rifle  
NJ Francis – Gallery Rifle and Pistol\*  
I Shirra-Gibb – 300 Metres  
PN Ryder – Historic and Classic Arms\*

*\* Not standing for re-election*

### Annual General Meeting

The 2017 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 16 June at 6pm in the NRA Pavilion.

### Bisley General Meeting

The 2017 Bisley General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 July at 9pm in the NRA Pavilion.

### Notice of Captaincy

Paul Wheeler – NRA CI 2018  
John Warburton – GBRT Canada 2018  
Ashley Dagger – GBGR 2017  
Lindsay Peden – Kolapore 2017  
John Webster – GB Vets Team NZ 2019

### Signed Accounts for 2016

The NRA's financial performance continues to be healthy, its latest signed accounts reveal.

The net surplus in 2016 of £108,127 is lower than reported in the previous two years, but this was deliberate as the Association has accelerated a number of infrastructural investment opportunities in the past year.

Cash generated by operations more than doubled to £928,000, of which £705,000 was spent on capital expenditure, illustrating the Association's increased investment in fixed assets.

Chairman John Webster said: "We must recognise that Bisley Camp is our main asset, and that it takes sizeable resources to run and develop it properly. We have been investing in its infrastructure to garner a return – both financial and non-financial – for the benefit of all NRA members."

### GGG .223 Rem ammo available

The NRA has now taken delivery of GGG .223 Rem ammo in 69gn bullet weight. Availability is limited at the introductory price of £825 for 1,000 rounds.

To buy the ammunition, please get in touch with the range office via [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk) or on 01483 797777 ext152.

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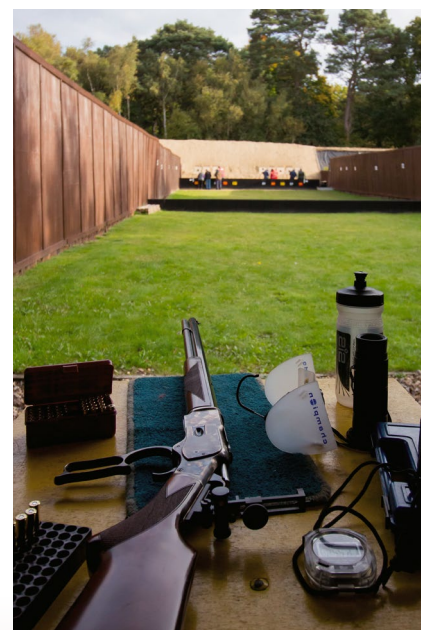
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Riflemags.co.uk is owned and run by Nottingham target hooting duo Dom and Beverley, and was started in 2010 in response to numerous requests for magazines and accessories on their travels around the world. Riflemags.co.uk has since grown to offer the UK's biggest range of rimfire rifle magazines, and has now expanded into centrefire as well as magazine accessories. They think spare magazines shouldn't cost an arm and a leg, so prices are sensible, the delivery is free and the service is 'down the range' friendly. They're always happy to talk shop.

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# Message 10

Ashley Dagger talks to NRA Marketing & Comms Manager Katia Malcaus Cooper



Frome & District Pistol Club President  
Ashley Dagger has taken on the mantle  
of GBGR Team Captain for 2017  
Photo © Charlotte Clark

## How did you get into shooting and at what age?

A chance meeting with a family friend in a maternity unit. We'd both gone to visit my two-day old niece, but I was more intrigued by the logo on his jumper: Frome & District Pistol Club. I thought it sounded more interesting than babies! That was back in 1985, aged 26. I was on a range within weeks.

## What is the most memorable moment in your career?

Taking on the mantle of Captain for the Great Britain Gallery Rifle Team in 2010/11. Thanks to a lot of hard work by a few (as is always the case) we were formally recognised by the NRA, and in the inaugural year we had a lot to prove. I'm very proud to be asked again to captain the team in 2017.

## What was the biggest hurdle that you had to overcome as a shooter?

Back pain. I got into shooting after my playing days in rugby came to a close. The ups and down of GR shooting sometimes take their toll. However, as is often said: no pain, no gain.

## What role do your family and friends play in your shooting?

As those who know me are all too aware, I have a very tolerant family. Disappearing on a regular basis around the UK and abroad is sometimes hard to justify, but I seem to get away with it on most occasions, fortunately.

Also, to me a true friend is one you don't see for months but can pick up a conversation with as though it was yesterday.

## What sort of music do you listen to?

I like most sorts of rock and blues; I'm certainly not a fan of jazz. For me a live group playing average is much better than a recording of playing well. It's a shame I don't get the time to see them so much.

## What clubs are you a member of?

I've been a member of Frome & District Pistol Club since 1985 and am now President. It's fair to say that FDPC has been a significant part of my shooting life for over 30 years. I'm also a member of Bristol & District R&PC and the NRA.

## Who has been your biggest inspiration?

An old boss in my early days in the MoD showed me the difference between management and leadership. I learned that it's not about the job, it's about the people. If I can provide a fraction of the inspiration he did, I'll be happy.

## What is your favourite country? Is it somewhere you have visited on tour?

From a shooting perspective it has to be the USA. Just after the pistol ban I visited the southern States for a two-week shooting roadtrip. We had pistols and ammo thrust upon us everywhere; they were the best hosts and very sympathetic to our cause.

Outside of shooting, New Zealand is without doubt the most spectacular country I've ever visited.

## How have Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

When I go through the gates at Bisley I feel reassuringly separated from the trials and tribulations of the real world. With my years of shooting, ROing and involvement with GBGR, I feel like one of the family, and the NRA's support for the sport (and for me particularly with FDPC) has been significant, and very gratefully received.

## What do you like to do in your free time?

I have a t-shirt that reads: Eat; Sleep; Shoot. That says it all!

## Do you have any pre-competition routines?

Sit quietly, don't rush, and think about the course of fire. When you're on the line, the only thing to focus on is the X ring – everything else should come naturally.

## What advice would you give to somebody who wanted to take up shooting?

Join a local club (see [www.fdp.org.uk](http://www.fdp.org.uk) for a totally biased opinion) and experience the variety of shooting. You'll never know what you're good at until you've tried it.

## So what next?

As Captain of GBGR for 2017, my goal is to ensure we come away as champions at the next IGRF World Cup in Ireland. If it was really about the taking part, why would we bother to add up the scores? I don't subscribe to that 100 per cent – having a safe, enjoyable time is most important. It is, after all, only a sport – albeit the best one. ■

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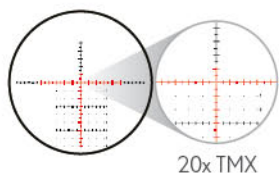
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